Gloria gives 3 doomed rapists 90-day reprieve

STORY ON PAGE A2

KL denies raps of harsh treatment

KUALA LUMPUR—What harsh conditions?

Malaysian authorities yesterday denied that conditions at detention centers for illegal immigrants were so harsh as to cause the deaths of several Filipino children.

Two toddlers died Saturday aboard a Philippine Navy ship while awaiting

KUALA/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Deportees fear caning the most

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—They have various reasons for working in Malaysia but deportees arriving here have the same explanation for hastily leaving the country—*rutan* whipping.

Rutan is the Malay word for rattan. Malaysia's tough new penalties for

DEPORTEES/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, August 29, 2002 ★★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 262 P15 website: www.inq7.net

GRIM welcome from relatives at the port of Zamboanga City where 3,000 more deportees arrive on Wednesday from Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia.

STARING at an uncertain tomorrow, a deportee is home after the unspeakable indignities and fears of yesterdays.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

THE EYES have it: This child has seen torment way beyond her years.

13 children dead in Sabah exodus

Some died in detention, others on way to RP

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* **and Dona Pazzibugan,** *in Manila*

JOLO, Sulu—Suffer the children.

The crackdown on Filipino illegal immigrants in Malaysia has cost the lives of at least 13 Filipino children, mostly infants, according to social work officials.

Some children were separated from their parents in the mad rush to leave Malaysia.

Social work officials also said that detained Filipinos, children and adults alike, were starving while those who survived the passage from Sandakan, Sabah, to Mindanao on jampacked ships and rickety launches were suffering from mental stress and malnutrition.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman yesterday said that some of the children died while in detention with their parents in Malaysia. Others passed away on their way to the Philippines.

"They died due to either pneumonia or dehydration," Soliman told the INQUIRER. Soliman flew to the capital of Sulu to arrange the arrival of an additional 3,000 deportees from Sandakan, Sabah.

The latest casualties were Medzralyn Sawara, 6 months old, whose parents hail from Lamitan, Basilan; Saidi Sami, 10 months old, whose parents are from Tipo-tipo, Basilan; and, Sitti Aisa Ibni, 19 months old of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Two babies died in June because of dehydration while being transported with their parents to Zamboanga City, according to Soliman.

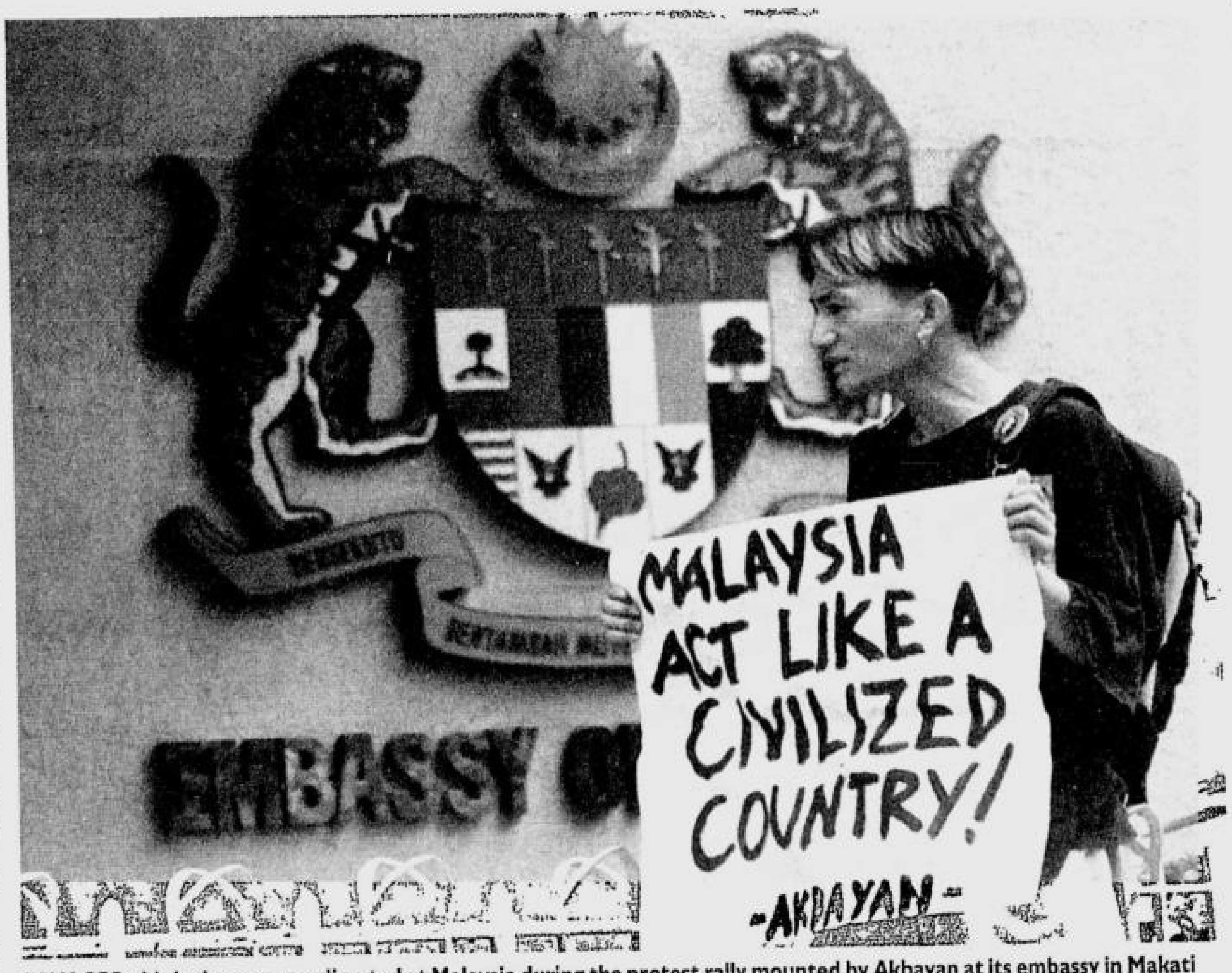
She said an initial report indicated that Sawara died while her parents were about to board a Philippine Navy ship in Sandakan.

Sawara and Sami were buried in Sandakan with the help of Ruby Awali, one of the social workers who went to Malaysia to help the deportees.

Malaysia introduced strict laws against illegals on Aug. 1, with a mandatory six months in jail and up to six strokes of the cane for those convicted. ***(See story on this page.)***

Since February, about 64,000 Filipinos

13 CHILDREN/A16



SAVAGES, this is the message directed at Malaysia during the protest rally mounted by Akbayan at its embassy in Makati for the treatment of Filipino illegal migrants in Sabah.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Solons call for review of RP claim to Sabah

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE FRESH wave of Filipino deportations from Malaysia has moved lawmakers to call for a review of the Philippines' claim to Sabah.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House foreign relations committee, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconstitute and convene the Legislative-Executive Advisory Council on Sabah to advise her on how to pursue the ownership claim over the territory in the northern tip of Borneo.

"The bottom line of this problem (of deportations) is really our claim to Sabah. It is high time we looked at it again," Lozada said in a phone interview.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, vice chair of the committee, said the Phil-

SOLONS/A16

Compensation, apology demanded

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine Avendaño

A DIPLOMATIC protest is not enough.

It must be coupled with a demand for compensation and apology from Malaysia for the inhuman treatment of thousands of Filipinos being deported from Sabah, according to legislators and a militant group.

A protest with the United Nations may follow. The Commission on Human Rights has initiated a documentation process for the filing of a complaint with the United Nations Committee on Human Rights.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek indemnification from Malaysia for the death of Filipino children during a crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Drilon said the Malaysian government should be "man enough to accept responsibility."

At a rally outside the Malaysian Em-

COMPENSATION/A16

Ebdane: No more kidnaps by December

By TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo

WITH two kidnap victims rescued and Pentagon kidnap group leader Faisal Marohombsar killed, the country's top cop yesterday said the kidnapping problem could be licked before year-end.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, said he assured President Macapagal-Arroyo last weekend that neutralizing the remaining 17 kidnap-for-ransom groups within the next months was "doable."

"I told Ma'am that if everything goes well . . . and with the cooperation of the community, especially the potential victims, and with (the media's) support, I think (her) deadline of one year is doable and this job will not last up to a year," Ebdane told reporters in an ambush interview.

He added: "Perhaps . . . we can provide the gift of the government if we

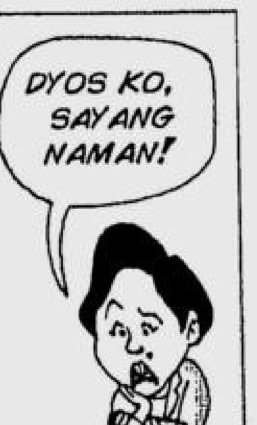
EBDANE/A15

No more photo ops with Pope

By B. Rivera and A. Nocum

THERE'S a silver lining in the cloud created by the Vatican's announcement that Pope John Paul II will not be able to come to Manila in January for the 4th World Meeting of

NO MORE/A4


DYOS KO, SAYANG NAMAN!

GOCC execs ask: Why's PAGC investigating us?

By Clarissa Batino, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

A BAFFLED Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin admitted yesterday that all of the 15 heads of revenue-generating, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) identified as receiving fat salaries had complied with a presidential directive to submit a pay rationalization plan.

So, why is the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission filing administrative charges against Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and 14 other GOCC executives for insubordination and defiance of President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to trim their pay packages?

The Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises will also investigate the charges against the GOCC officials, according to Sen. John Osmeña.

GOCC/A4

Appeals court's 'best justices' named to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac and Dona Pazzibugan

THE NEW justices of the Supreme Court were the strongest contenders for the posts vacated by retired Associate Justices Jose A.R. Melo and Sabino R. De Leon.

Court of Appeals Justices Conchita Carpio-Morales and Romeo Callejo Sr. were unanimously recommended

APPEALS/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/29/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

3 doomed rapists get 90-day reprieve

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has granted a reprieve to three convicted rapists originally scheduled to die by lethal injection in the next three weeks.

In a memorandum dated Aug. 27, Ms Macapagal said she was granting the reprieve so she could "conduct a thorough study to determine if executive clemency may be extended" to the three death convicts.

Earlier, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had said the President would postpone the executions in deference to the 74th birthday of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin on Aug. 31.

But the executions would push through "definitely within the year," Bunye had said.

Yesterday, Bunye said the three men, who were scheduled to die between Aug. 30 and Sept. 20, would have their executions delayed by 90 days each, the Agence France Presse reported.

Asked why the President would consider clemency for the three men, Bunye had replied: "That is her prerogative."

'Death list'

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he received late Tuesday the President's memorandum to stay the executions of convicted rapists Rolando Pagdayawon, Eddie Sernadilla and Filomeno Serrano.

Pagdayawon was supposed to be executed by lethal injection on Friday, Sernadilla on Sept. 3 and Serrano on Sept. 20.

They were among more than 20 convicted criminals scheduled to die this year, of the nearly 1,000 inmates on death row as of Aug. 22, according to an updated list released by the prisons bureau.

"The President wants more time to study the cases of people condemned to death before deciding whether their executions should push through or not," Perez said over dzRH radio.

Under a 1994 law that re-imposed capital punishment, all death penalty cases are reviewed by the Supreme Court. If the high court reaffirms the sentence, the President may exercise executive clemency and commute the punishment to life imprisonment.

During a luncheon with Palace reporters yesterday, however, Ms Macapagal said she granted the reprieve in view of a bill filed by 100 congressmen for a moratorium on executions until Congress repeals the death penalty law.

"I am not saying that I (have) accepted (their appeal) but reviewing (the cases) gives me a chance to hear the congressional debate," she said.

Ms Macapagal dropped her opposition to the death penalty last February.

'Strong republic'

She promised the Filipino-Chinese community she would carry out the execution of convicted kidnappers in order to stop the spate of abductions.

Last month, in keeping with her vow to put up a "strong republic," she said she would carry out all state executions.

She said she would make an example of the first three death convicts before rethinking her decision. Most of those on death row were convicted of rape.

Not enough, bishops say

By Blanche S. Rivera

SAYING a reprieve was not good enough, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday urged the President to order a moratorium on executions while she reviewed the cases of the death convicts.

In a press conference, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Hernando Coronel said the Catholic Church would continue to lobby for the abolition of the death penalty, saying it was "immoral, inhuman, cruel."

"We are not only after a reprieve or piecemeal solutions. The death penalty law... should not be part of the civilized world," Coronel said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has granted 90-day reprieves to convicts Rolando Pagdayawon, Eddie Semadilla and Filomeno Serrano. Pagdayawon was scheduled to die on Aug. 30.

Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, said the reprieve does not ease the "psychological agony" of the convicts and their families.

"If the President is really sincere in studying the cases, why not declare a moratorium so the families would not be tortured by the uncertainty of the convicts' fate?" Diamante said.

With a Reuters report

Banks told to report Estrada accounts

By Volt Contreras

STATE prosecutors in the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday started asking different banks to report to the Ombudsman if they hold accounts belonging to any of the nine accused in the historic case.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. said they have served such notice to the banks after securing a freeze order on the assets of Estrada and his co-accused last Monday.

Gervacio said he had so far signed 20 to 30 notices addressed to the head offices of major banks in Metro Manila and their branches. Each notice comes with a copy of the Sandiganbayan's Aug. 23 freeze order.

"This is just a notice, not yet an execution of the order," he said.

Senior State Prosecutor Alex Padilla said the notices, while having no coercive powers in themselves, signals the banks not to anymore process transactions concerning the subject accounts.

"They should now respect the court resolution," he added, saying non-complying banks could be cited for contempt or face investigation.

Padilla further explained that the Bank Secrecy Law can no longer be invoked here because the notices were issued in pursuit of a court order.

The prosecutors made this move despite a persisting gray area in the court order regarding the extent of the assets being frozen.

Estrada's court-appointed lawyers have questioned a portion in the ruling that said the freeze applies to at least four speficied items plus "other real or personal properties owned by all the accused."

They insisted, particularly in the case of their client, that the freeze should not cover assets or properties Estrada acquired before he became President.

Estrada is accused of enriching himself illegally to the tune of P4 billion during his abbreviated, 30-month presidency.

His lawyers yesterday told the court they will no longer file a motion for clarification as earlier announced, but will instead call for the very scrapping of the freeze order itself through a motion for reconsideration.

With the court holding in abeyance the questioned portion, the order now strictly covers only four items identified by the prosecution early as their August 2001 motion seeking the freeze.

These are the houses and lots of two of Estrada's co-accused, Yolanda Ricaforte and Charlie "Atong" Ang; some P201 million in alleged jueteng payola kept by Estrada in the bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; and another P11 million kept in Ricaforte's accounts.

No more talks; Gloria orders kidnap rescue

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flashed the green light for military operations against the armed group that abducted six Jehovah's Witnesses in Sulu on Aug. 20, saying there will be no more negotiations.

Ms Macapagal also hinted that she expects a major development on or before Sept. 10 regarding the offensive, saying she's extending the term of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu for more than a week until such date.

"I'll keep Cimatu until Sept. 10 so he can have Sulu as his swan song," the President said over lunch with Palace reporters.

Cimatu's replacement was originally set to be named by President Macapagal on Sept. 1 and will take over command of the military on Sept. 4.

Cimatu, however, appears to have been given one last mission: to rescue the hostages and finish off their abductors.

"We have crossed the line. The operations will continue," Cimatu said.

"It will be good if he could make it (Sulu operations) his swan song," the President said.

Ms Macapagal had credited Cimatu for the supposed neutralization of the Abu Sayyaf and the killing of its spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, last June 21.

'Case closed:' Revilla returns Pajero

By Rocky Nazareno

FACING an investigation by his peers, Sen. Ramon Revilla returned yesterday the Mitsubishi Pajero that threatened to become an issue in the Senate investigation into the multimillion-peso vehicle repair scam in the Department of Public Works and Highways.

In a statement, Revilla said he was returning the vehicle "to put the issue to rest and allow the ongoing inquiry into the P139-million vehicle repair scam to proceed without petty distractions."

"Case closed," declared Senate ethics committee chair Francis Pangilinan, when asked if his committee would still proceed with a *motu proprio* (on its own) investigation into Revilla's possession of the Pajero, which was one of 500 vehicles listed by the DPWH as missing from its inventory.

Pangilinan said that unless a complaint is filed with the ethics committee, he found it no longer necessary to investigate Revilla.

"If the use of the vehicle was for official functions, I see no problem with that," Pangilinan said.

Revilla had admitted being issued the Pajero in 1994 by then DWPH Secretary Jose "Ping" de Jesus for his use in inspecting DPWH projects as chair of the Senate committee on public works.

"Contrary to what some quarters want the public to believe, how could the vehicle be missing when it was traced to my office?" Revilla said.

SPAV, Transco bills no 'cure-all'—Recto

By Rocky Nazareno

PASSING the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) and Transco bills is not "the cure-all to the crippling deficit and revenue shortage" threatening the country.

This was the assertion of Senate ways and means committee chair Ralph Recto yesterday in light of President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement Tuesday that passage of the two measures would help plug the widening budget deficit.

The President had told a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) the passage of the two bills would show the country still had a "functioning economy."

The SPAV bill would provide tax incentives to asset management firms that purchase the nonperforming assets of domestic banks, while the Transco measure would privatize state transmission lines and hopefully bring down electric rates.

"(The two laws) could help, but not in the magnitude that would make our coffers brim with cash," Recto said in a statement.

Recto is defending the SPAV bill on the floor and is encountering stiff resistance from the opposition, which is objecting to a provision that would allow the original borrowers to re-acquire their foreclosed assets through public bidding at a discount and tax-free.

"We would like to disabuse (everyone) of the notion the two measures are cash cows waiting to be milked," he said.

Recto nevertheless assured Malacañang "the Senate will pass the two bills so that the senators would not be made the scapegoats for the bad economy."

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta chided President Macapagal for using the two bills as a "lame excuse to rein in the deficit."

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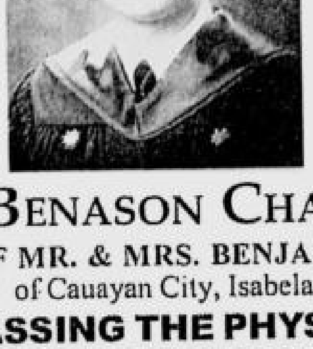

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Asean ministers move to fight cyber-terrorism

SOUTHEAST Asian telecommunications ministers decided yesterday to set up an early warning system to track down terrorists using computer networks to destabilize the region.

The ministers said in a statement after talks here that an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Network Security Coordination Council would be established to offer "protection of information and communications infrastructures" in the region.

They said Southeast Asia was already facing a computer security threat following the Sep. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

"The network has yet to be set up but, of course, it should be immediate because we feel the threat is already here," Secretary of Transportation and Communications Leandro Mendoza said.

He said the regional mechanism would tap the expertise of other Asean bodies, including those in charge of fighting transnational crime.

To back up the council, the ministers decided to set up an expert group focusing on measures to counter cyber-terrorism, according to the joint statement.

National computer emergency response teams would be set up in all the 10 Asean states "to facilitate the prevention, detection and resolution of security threats to computer networks and strengthen regional cooperation," the joint statement said.

Mendoza said international concerns and efforts on counter-terrorism were now "expanding from securing the physical infrastructure to securing the information infrastructure." Southeast Asia is viewed as a nest for cells linked to the al-Qaida network of suspected international terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden which is blamed for the September attacks.

Following the deadly attacks, the region has been designated the second front in Washington's counter-terrorism effort after Afghanistan.

Several suspected terrorists linked to al-Qaida have been arrested in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Leo Moggie, Malaysia's minister of energy, communications and multimedia, said the focus of terrorism was both political and economic and made it "necessary for us to give urgent consideration" to the idea of an early warning system guarding computer networks.

David Lim Tik En, Singapore's minister of information, communication and the arts, said the terrorism threat could come through computer viruses, which "could pop up anywhere." He said Asean needed to be prepared with an early warning strategy to counter such threats.

"If floodwaters come down the river, the first village that sees the floodwater tells the next village 'it is coming, better prepare' so that we can all strengthen our dikes and withstand the surge," he said. *AFP*

Lawmakers want 'terror' defined by UN

By Cynthia D. Balana

PARLIAMENTARIANS from 26 countries in Asia and the Pacific yesterday rejected the unilateral definition of the United States of terrorism and instead urged the United Nations to come out with a universally-accepted definition.

A resolution to this effect was adopted by delegates to the three-day Second Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP II) Meeting which ended yesterday.

In the resolution, the delegates called for a concerted effort to combat international terrorism, saying it was an assault against humanity and affected international cooperation, peace and security.

It also urged all nations to criminalize all forms of terrorism and to classify it as a heinous crime in accordance with international and domestic laws and the UN standards on human rights.

NEWSBRIEFS

Trillions in fake US notes

POLICE said yesterday they have arrested five people for possession of counterfeit US government notes and treasury certificates with a face value of over $125 trillion. The five were arrested Saturday in a raid on a hotel room in Cagayan de Oro City, where police also seized the counterfeit items, including gold bullion certificates, treasury and federal reserve notes, and dollar bills.

The fake notes were contained in a box marked "Federal Reserve Board, Cleveland, USA," a police report said. Central bank representatives estimated the total amount of the fake US dollar notes to be $125.212 trillion, the police report added. Also seized were P81.5 million ($22.5 million) worth of counterfeit Argentinian currency, the police said. The five men are facing charges of forgery. *AFP*

NBI: Watch your taxes

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday reminded all private firms to review their tax payments to make sure that the taxes they paid reached the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Wycoco made the warning after Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri went to the NBI yesterday to complain that up to P20 million in taxes, from two restaurants he partly owns, were diverted and did not reach the BIR.

"Those other companies that pay the VAT (value-added tax) should check their records now. It is possible that they were also victimized," Wycoco said

Whistle-blower charged

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. yesterday said dismissed Pagcor executive, Ray Peter O. Vivo, admitted to releasing confidential information to unauthorized individuals after being suspended due to gross misconduct. In a press statement, Pagcor said he committed these violations after a seven-man adjudication board made up of fellow executives conducted an investigation of the alleged defamatory remarks he made against the firm's present leadership.

During the investigation, Pagcor said, Vivo admitted giving copies of classified documents and information to administration critic Linda Montayre and a newspaper columnist. Vivo was one of the main sources of the INQUIRER in its recent series regarding the proliferation of slot machines in the country.

Criminal charges have been filed against Vivo with the Office of the Ombudsman and with the Manila City Prosecutor's Office for infidelity in the custody of documents and slander. Vivo is also facing charges of unexplained wealth, the gaming firm said.

Crunch time at BI

FACED with financial problems, the Bureau of Immigration is rushing the deportation of foreign detainees to save itself the burden of having to feed more mouths.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the BI is deporting an average of eight detainees a week. The BI detention center in Taguig, Rizal, currently houses some 150 illegal aliens. Its capacity is only 60 detainees.

The BI has said it would soon run out of food and medicines for the detainees because of the huge national budget deficit.

2 solons vs coal plants

TWO congressmen have prodded Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday to go after coal-fired power plants, whose toxic emissions continue to wreak havoc on the public's health. Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales of Akbayan said Alvarez should treat the coal-fired power plants with the same decisiveness to stop big miners from further poisoning the environment in Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley.

"We call on Secretary Alvarez to now give immediate and equal attention to the harmful effects of coal-fired power plants on public health and the toxic effect of mercury, zinc, chromium and other metals on our water systems and marine life," Rosales said.

Lakas Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri of Bukidnon said the P122.1 million for the "Clean Air Fund" under next year's proposed national budget will go to waste if coal-fired power plants around Metro Manila continue to endanger the health of its 11 million inhabitants.

Beijing pleads for poachers

BEIJING has asked Manila to release the 122 Chinese fishermen who were caught poaching in waters off the coast of Palawan several months ago.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Chung Yi made the request to Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople. Wang asked if the Philippine government could release the fishermen in time for the visit of China's second highest official, Li Peng, chairperson of the Chinese National People's Congress.

The DFA has asked the Department of Justice to look into the possibility of granting reprieve to the suspected poachers who have been under Philippine custody for the past six months.

Li is expected to arrive this September to meet with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia. The Chinese leader is expected to arrive on Sept. 12 and is expected to stay for various meetings with government officials until Sept. 15.

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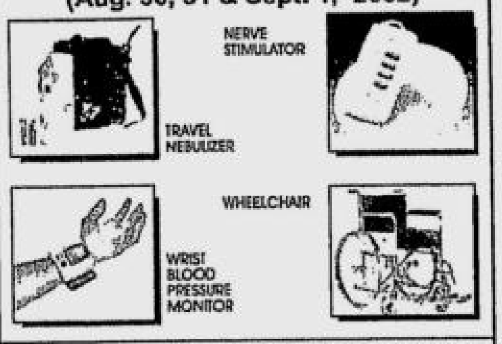

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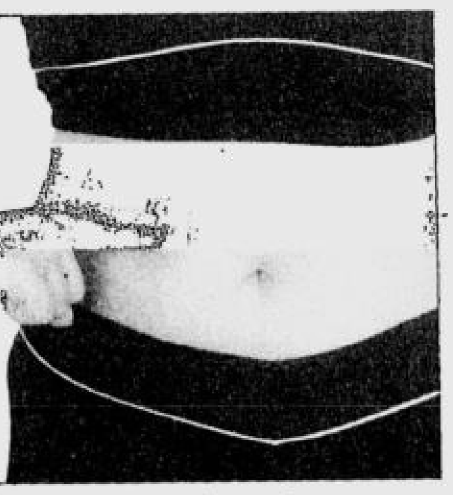
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GOCC execs ask: Why's PAGC investigating us?

From page A1

The heads of these GOCCs reportedly earn three to four times more than department secretaries who receive about P78,000 a month. Buenaventura earns P8 million annually.

Saying that Malacañang had kept the charges under wraps, former Sen. Francisco Tatad made them public during a press conference yesterday at the Senate.

But Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho denied that the heads of the 15 GOCCs would be charged with insubordination but that the PAGC only sought "an inquiry" into the compliance of the pay rationalization plan.

The heads of the GOCCs said in separate interviews that they had complied with a year-old presidential directive to submit a pay rationalization plan to the budget department but had not received the order from Malacañang to execute it.

Boncodin agreed that before the state agencies could implement a pay cut, the budget department would have to approve it first. "They have to wait for our go-signal and we have not yet given it."

A source told the INQUIRER that Boncodin herself was waiting for instructions from the Office of the President before she could order the GOCCs concerned to implement the pay cut.

Tatad provided newsmen with copies of the PAGC charge sheets in Case No. 100-02, dated Aug. 14, 2002 "finding sufficient basis to commence an administrative investigation" of the respondents.

In the order, PAGC Commissioner Dario Rama gave the respondents 10 days to answer the charges which would be heard during the first preliminary hearing tomorrow.

Rama said that the respondents "clearly disregarded the orders and refused to comply within the mandated time (within one month from the effectivity of the memorandum) by submitting the required pay rationalization plan to the Department of Budget and Management and reducing the actual pay package to not exceeding two times the standardized rates for comparable national government positions.

This order to the GOCCs is contained in Memorandum Order No. 20, issued by President Macapagal on June 25, 2001.

Depending on the findings of the inquiry, the sanctions to be imposed on the erring party include a reprimand, suspension from public service or outright dismissal.

Tatad said the investigation could prompt high-profile resignations in a critical sector of government during this critical time. Then Education Secretary Raul Roco resigned as "a point of honor" when the President referred to the PAGC a complaint filed against Roco by DepEd employees.

RAMA

BUENAVENTURA

DE LA PAZ

TEVES

GARCIA

PAYUMO

Also charged

Other top executives charged were Florencio Padernal, chair of the Bases Conversion Development Authority; Vitaliano Nañagas, chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines; Winston Garcia, president/general manager of the Government Service Insurance System; Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan, president of the Home Guaranty Corp.; Margarito Teves, president of the Land Bank of the Philippines; Roland Quilala, president of the National Power Corp.; Norberto Nazareno, president/chief operating officer of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.; Lilia de Lima, director general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; Francisco Duque, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.; Nicasio Rodriguez Jr., postmaster general of the Philippine Postal Corp.; Jose Isabelo, general manager of People's Television Network Inc.; Felicito Payumo, chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority; Corazon de la Paz, president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System; and Joel Valdez, president of the Trade and Investment Development Corp.

Also charged were other John and Jane Does, presidential appointees and/or non-career officers.

Set to give up excess

GSIS chief Garcia, who earns P300,000 monthly, said that he had been ready to remit "almost P1 million" in salaries he had voluntarily deducted from his take-home pay since July last year even before the budget department had given its approval to cut his salary.

He had written to Camacho about the P1-million remittance but that he had yet to get a reply. But Camacho countered that he was not aware that Garcia was ready to give up his "excess pay."

SSS chief De la Paz also said she knew her predecessor, Vitaliano Nañagas, had submitted a pay cut plan.

Exempted by law

"While trying to cut costs in the face of an increasingly unmanageable fiscal deficit, she has decided to go after her own people for having been exempted by law from salary standardization," he said.

"I don't know what they are trying to drive at. They should be more cautious because this is voluntary on the part of the agency heads. We cannot impose a pay cut on the employees because we have an independent charter," Garcia of GSIS explained.

The 15 agencies charged have their respective charters and are exempt from the government's salary standardization law. They do not rely on the government to finance their operations.

Still a plan

While the respondents were ordered by the President last year to reduce their pay package and to put in place a pay rationalization plan, the plan had yet to be approved, Tatad said.

So, there is nothing to comply with and nothing that the heads of the GOCCs were supposed to have ignored, Tatad pointed out.

"Obviously, some of these people have overpaid themselves. But they were able to do that because of their exemption from the salary standardization law," he said.

Congress alone can amend the law, not the President who merely issued a memorandum to this effect, Tatad said.

Curiously enough, Tatad said, two "favorite agencies" of the President were not included in the charges, the Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Malacañang issued an official statement defending the action taken by Rama. "We in government should be above suspicion," said the statement read by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. He said that, "this is merely an inquiry into the implementation of Memorandum Order No. 20.

"This is in line with our commitment to good governance," Bunye said.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Loss of confidence as a ground for dismissal of the employee—The basic requisite for dismissal on the ground of loss of trust and confidence is that the employee must be one holding a position of trust and confidence. However, loss of confidence must not be indiscriminately used as a shield by the employer against a claim that the dismissal of an employee was arbitrary. Loss of confidence as a just cause for termination of employment is premised on the fact that the employee concerned holds a position of responsibility or trust and confidence. He must be invested with confidence on delicate matters, such as custody handling or care and protection of the property and assets of the employer. And, in order to constitute a just cause for dismissal, the act complained of must be work-related and shows that the employee concerned is unfit to continue to work for the employer. Further, well settled is the rule that for loss of trust and confidence to be a valid ground for dismissal of an employee, it must be substantial and founded on clearly established facts sufficient to warrant the employee's separation from employment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, Sulpicio Lines, Inc. v. Gulde, G. R. No. 149930, February 22, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

No more photo ops with Pope

From page A1

Families.

According to Fr. Robert Reyes, President Macapagal-Arroyo "likes to use anything that will produce political mileage for her"—a supposed penchant that, he said, would surely aggravate the Pope's frail condition if he were to make the trip.

He was referring to the President's continuing photo binge showing her launching a new shopping mall, meeting the remains of Filipino workers killed overseas, presenting criminal suspects in Malacañang and elsewhere, and even posing with the corpses of kidnappers and car thieves.

"God knows what kind of photo opportunities will take place (should the Pope come)," Reyes said at a press briefing yesterday with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"Poor Pope—he's already sick. Imagine if he were to go through all that. It just might kill the man."

Asked if the CBCP shared the sentiments of the so-called "running priest," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the influential group, merely said: "Fr. Robert Reyes is Fr. Robert Reyes."

The Vatican recently relayed the "sad news" that the 82-year-old Pontiff would not be able to attend the family-focused world meeting set on Jan. 22-26.

No reason was given, triggering speculation that the Vatican feared a terrorist plot against the Pope similar to that uncovered during his 1995 visit to Manila for the World Youth Day.

But Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas yesterday said it was not the heat of terrorism but the Philippines' tropical weather that was behind the cancellation of the visit.

"It will be winter in Rome in January, and when he comes to Asia, he will find a tropical climate here. So it will be a very difficult adjustment for an elderly man like the Holy Father," Villegas said.

He also said the great distance from Rome to Asia could take its toll on the Pope, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease and arthritis.

Test of commitment

Villegas stressed that the decision to cancel the Pope's visit was made by the Vatican.

"They informed us that (the world meeting) was not included in the program for the Holy Father for 2003," he said.

Echoing the statements of organizers of the event, Villegas said: "I am sure the attendance will be affected. There is only one Pope and he has always been a magnet to attract the people in terms of participation."

But this can serve as a test of the commitment of Filipinos to carry on the cause of international evangelization without the Pontiff's drawing power, he said.

"It will be an opportunity to express our faith and . . . show the world that even if he does not come, we will fulfill the role he has entrusted Filipinos—to become evangelizers by way of the family," Villegas said.

Earlier, the Archdiocese of Manila sounded an alarm on the supposed "subtle attacks" on the Filipino family through contraceptives, abortion, divorce, the introduction of sex education in schools, as well as efforts to legalize euthanasia.

Death penalty

At the press conference, Coronel said the plight of the families of death convicts was not included in the agenda for the world meeting.

Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, said the visit of the Pope could have been used as another reason to "wave the magic political wand" and spare a death convict.

The CBCP reiterated that the Pontiff himself had been appealing to the world to abolish capital punishment because it was inhuman, immoral and cruel.

Reyes yesterday ran the distance from the CBCP office in Intramuros to Malacañang to deliver a letter from death convict Rolando Pagdayawon appealing to the President to give him a chance at life. But he was denied entry.

"Whatever the President does now will have political implications in 2004," the priest said in reference to her purported plan to seek the vote two years hence.

He added: "The Catholic Church also has to deal with the fact that if we're going to protect the rights of families, we should fight for it without the Pope."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 29, 2002
Martyrdom of John the Baptist
1st Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-9
Gospel: Mk 6:17-29

Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very disturbed whenever he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday, when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. On that occasion the daughter of Herodias came in and danced; and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to say with many oaths, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

Commentary

John the Baptist is a forerunner of Jesus in all aspects—not only in his life and mission but also in his death. God's reign cannot be compromised by arrangements of convenience. It is based on right relationships through and through. The lot of John the Baptist is a sure foreboding of what is going to happen to Jesus. In fact, earlier than this episode Mark reported Jesus to have been rejected by his own compatriots of Nazareth. What else will the Prophet suffer like the prophets of old, who were rejected and even persecuted and killed? Authentic prophetism is verified in one's constancy and perseverance in one's calling and mission despite odds. How do we live our prophetic calling?

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Nazis next door

EDITORIAL

A NEW diplomatic row has erupted between the Philippines and Malaysia over the deportation of thousands of Filipinos from Sabah where an estimated half a million Filipinos live.

The Department of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday lodged a diplomatic protest with Malaysia over its harsh crackdown on illegal Filipino residents. The protest followed the deportation of hundreds of Filipino illegal migrants who have been flowing into the country during the past few weeks.

Reports received by the DFA from its consular team in Malaysia have confirmed the Filipino refugees were "inhumanly treated." The deportees were crammed in congested holding centers awaiting deportation. They had inadequate food. Some slept on cold cement floors. And at least 13 children have died in the camps or while in transit to southern Philippines.

The arrival recently of 173 deportees who were packed in a small fishing boat with a maximum capacity of 30 passengers illustrated the harsh treatment of the migrants and recalled the plight of the Vietnamese "boat people" who fled Vietnam following the fall of formerly Saigon to the communist armies in 1975.

Malaysia staged the crackdown to expel more than 300,000 illegal workers—mainly Indonesians and Filipinos—after the expiration last Aug. 1 of a four-month amnesty. Since February, about 64,000 Filipinos have left Sabah and another 4,000 are awaiting deportation.

Malaysia started implementing draconian measures after Aug. 1, including a six-month imprisonment and six strokes of the cane. In reality, conditions in the detention camps are more deplorable: the arrests remind us of the herding by the Nazis of Jews in their ghettoes prior to their being transported to concentration camps.

The Malaysian ambassador to Manila, Mohammad Noor Taufik, blamed the Filipino migrants for the harsh treatment. He said that if they had availed themselves of the amnesty, they would not have to be "rushing out" now.

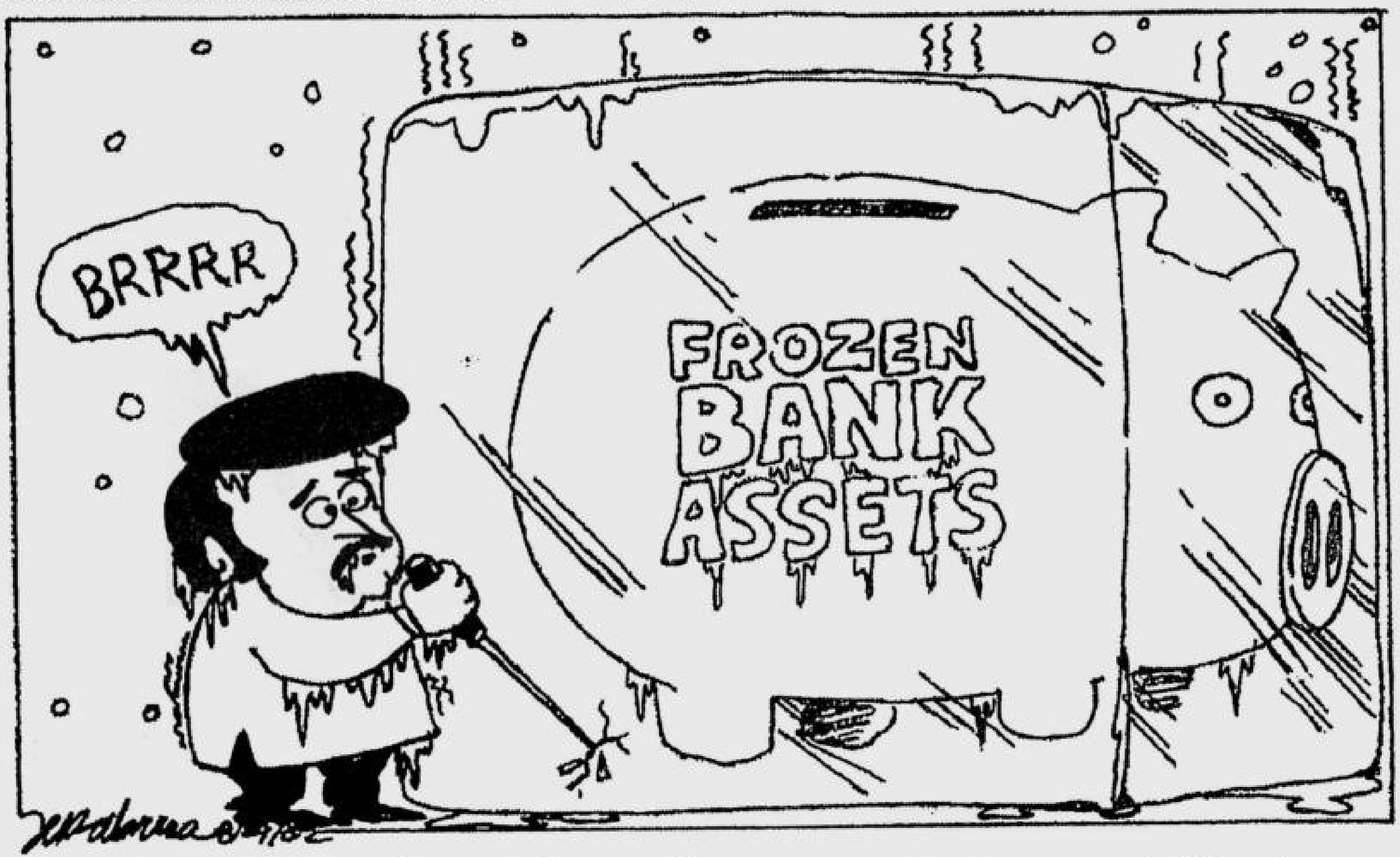
But the situation is more complex than that. A large portion of the inhabitants of Sabah are Filipinos, many of them undocumented and therefore considered "illegals." They have lived in Sabah because the Filipinos in the Sulu archipelago considered the former British North Borneo a part of the Sultanate of Sulu long before it was annexed by the British under questionable circumstances. Travel between Sulu and Sabah has been relatively easy, with no visas required. Moreover, Filipinos in Sabah are not parasites living off the Malaysian economy; they hold jobs in Malaysian plantations.

Filipinos there have been subject to periodic harassment by Malaysian authorities over their "illegal" status, and the way the Malaysians have treated the Filipino deportees makes the treatment of Vietnamese boat people in the 1970s look like they were having a picnic.

But then, the Malaysians have never been noted for having a humanitarian streak. During the invasion of the "boat people," Malaysian authorities pushed back the refugees to the sea.

The mass deportation of Filipinos from Sabah raises questions about what has prompted Kuala Lumpur to stage this new round of expulsions. The Philippine claim to Sabah has been shoved back to the back burner, especially in the new era of good feelings between the Macapagal administration and the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. Manila and Kuala Lumpur have been cooperating in measures to curb terrorism by Muslim extremists, which the Mahathir government has been trying to isolate. Most of the Filipinos who migrated to Sabah went there to escape the rigors of the conflict of the Muslim secessionist rebellions.

Manila is not in the mood to revive the Sabah claim. Nor is it inclined to rock the boat of the now relatively calm relations it has with Kuala Lumpur. There is, therefore, no reason for Malaysia to be nervous over the large Filipino presence in Sabah or to emulate the Nazis' methods of dealing with unwanted people.



For lack of a sidewalk, a woman was killed

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is one of the tragic results when sidewalks are stolen from pedestrians: Two old women forced to walk on the side of the street, beside the sidewalk, not on it, were sideswiped by a tanker truck on Arsenio H. Lacson Street (formerly Governor Forbes), opposite the Santo Tomas University Hospital. One was killed on the spot, her intestines splattered on the pavement. The other was seriously injured. Ironically, they were going to the hospital for a health checkup.

The dead woman was my own aunt, Mauricia A. Novenario, 81. Her companion was her niece, Natividad Novenario-Perez, 70.

According to the survivor, they got off the jeepney at A.H. Lacson Street and walked towards the Dapitan pedestrian lane to cross to the hospital. This was at about 10 a.m. last Aug. 20. Because the sidewalk was full of obstructions, she walked on the outermost edge while Mauricia had to walk on the street. They were holding hands.

She saw the traffic signal turn green and heard the speeding truck. Mauricia was about to get up on the sidewalk beside her when the truck hit her. Because they were holding hands, both of them were thrown by the impact under the truck. Natividad fell between the two rows of wheels. The front and rear wheels rolled over Mauricia's torso.

The driver of the Isuzu truck, Joselito Manahan of 97 Maronquillo St., San Rafael, Bulacan, surrendered to SPO4 Rolando Intertas. The truck was registered under the name of Aurora C. Lara with address at 1014 Pedro Gil cor. San Marcelino, Manila.

Had there been no obstructions on the sidewalk, Mauricia would have been standing there when the truck passed and she would have been alive today. Which shows why MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's efforts to clear the sidewalks of obstructions is a life-and-death struggle. Because sidewalk vendors and parked vehicles have taken over the sidewalks, pedestrians are forced to walk on the street where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles. Who knows, the next victim may be you or your loved one.

Worse, some streets have literally no sidewalks. Example: Tandang Sora Street approaching the Commonwealth Avenue flyover in Quezon City. After school hours, this street is literally swarming with students walking home. This is a very busy, crowded street and the children are exposed to the danger of passing vehicles. Even worse, passenger jeepneys use both sides (that's right, both sides) of the street as a terminal. So the children are forced to walk on the outer sides of the lines of jeepneys, already near the middle of the street.

On Commonwealth Avenue itself, sidewalk vendors occupy not only the sidewalks but part of the street itself. Vendors have this strong desire to always be in front. They believe that the vendors in front get the first customers. So when a vendor puts his *bilao* in front of another vendor, the second vendor moves his own *bilao* in front of the other, and so on until they reach the middle of the street.

The government is spending P1 billion to widen Commonwealth Avenue and improve the flow of traffic. At Manggahan, beyond the Sandiganbayan building, where the government spent hundreds of millions of pesos to build the vehicle underpass, the government spent more millions for a market to house the sidewalk vendors. But traffic on Commonwealth slows to a crawl there because the vendors (they're not sidewalk vendors anymore but street vendors) are still out in the streets, forcing the vehicles to pass through a funnel between them.

How can they do such a thing? Because, according to the vendors themselves, policemen, barangay and city hall officials collect *tong* from them every day.

Poor Fernando, he has to fight not only the sidewalk vendors and the squatters but also his fellow mayors. For many years, the mayors have coddled the vendors by allowing them to sow anarchy on the sidewalks. Clearing the sidewalks and streets is really the job of the mayors (as well as ejecting squatters and preventing new ones from moving in), but now that Fernando is doing it for them, they are putting up stumbling blocks for him.

Some of the mayors want to get the goods of the vendors and give them to the jails and orphanages. Fernando wants to destroy the goods so that MMDA employees will not be tempted and will not be accused of getting them for themselves.

The concern of the bleeding hearts is how to allow the vendors to continue earning a living. If there are too many of them to fit in the existing markets—now almost empty—we can adopt the example of some of our Asian neighbors. In Bangkok, there is the "weekend market" where all the vendors gather every weekend in a huge park as big as Rizal Park. It is a big attraction and even tourists go there. Vendors earn in two days what they ordinarily earn in one whole week. By Monday morning, the whole park is clean again.

In Singapore, parking lots are turned over to vendors after office hours. The vendors put out tables and chairs and serve hot food. This is also a tourist attraction.

And in Tokyo, Ginza, the main downtown street, is closed to traffic on weekends and turned over to vendors and pedestrians. Some narrow streets in other Japanese cities have been permanently closed to traffic and converted into pedestrians malls.

Why don't we adopt these innovations here?

Tombstone city

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TWICE already, I've seen Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a pretty macabre pose. The first time was a couple of months ago, when she appeared in a photograph in the newspapers surveying the results of an encounter following a drug bust somewhere in a subdivision near Katipunan Avenue. She was in the foreground of the picture, looking grim and determined, while in the background the bullet-riddled body of a man lay sprawled on the front seat of his car, with the door opened to reveal his bloodied form.

The second time was last Monday. The President was again surveying the results of an encounter following a rescue of a kidnap victim in Magallanes, Cavite. Clad in an impeccable red dress, she is conferring with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu and a couple of police chiefs on the day's labors. In the foreground, lying on a bamboo stretcher, is the lifeless body of Faisal Marohombsar, leader of the dreaded Pentagon kidnap gang. His mouth is open in a grimace of death. His body has been washed, but traces of blood still cling to his arms and chest, which can be seen through a raised T-shirt.

Maybe it's the fault of newspapers that they carry pictures like this? Maybe. But there's a limit to how far you can shy away from these things when the President insists on mining photo opportunities with the dead. This is the logical extension of the presidential presentation of criminal suspects in Malacañang, though this one adds whole new dimensions to striking a note of finality to things. Like the presentations of the living, media have to cover the presentations of the dead.

I have no beef with a strong approach to crime, even one that employs, as the movies say, "maximum prejudice." Law enforcers carry guns for the reason that not every criminal responds very well to words. Sometimes you have to use draconian methods of persuasion. But I've always thought the trick was to "walk quietly and carry a big stick." It's not to "walk noisily and exhibit your kills like trophy."

The image that springs to mind from the President's latest picture is that of Old West lawmen, marshals' and deputies' badges pinned on their funereal long coats, posing alongside the pale and stiff corpses of outlaws who may or may not be nestling on wooden coffins, in front of a photographer whose head is buried in black cloth, who shouts "Ready" and makes his flashbulb erupt in smoke. It has that kind of phony claim to lore or legend written about it. At the very least, I don't know that enforcing the law becomes more effective because of this. I don't know that these pictures give would-be criminals the chills and stop them from taking up a criminal career on pain of ending up that way.

Nobody remembers the lawmen who posed for the camera beside the Colt-mangled bodies of Jesse James or Billy the Kid. Or in the gangster years of America, the FBI agents who preened before the photographers beside the Thompson-riddled bodies of Ma Barker and his boys, John Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson. Everyone remembers James et al. Notoriety is as powerful an incentive to crime as profit, especially in this country, which has a way of lionizing outlaws. I wouldn't be surprised if even as we speak, movie outfits are making a beeline for the life story of one Faisal Marohombsar, Alias Pentagon. Just put the obligatory phrase, "*huwag tularan*," in front of the title and you're free. That's what the old Hollywood movies used to do—preface the gangster sagas with the warning, "Crime does not pay," but which those movies themselves, actually undisguised paeans to them, easily refuted.

Quite apart from this, I don't know that all this is beaming an edifying message to the public. The message I get is that the government cares less about fighting crime than about piling up the corpses. The first is invisible, the second makes for a good show. I ask myself: If GMA is serious about fighting crime, why doesn't she turn her guns on the big-time criminals in the BIR that Rene Bañez just told her about? I won't mind not seeing them sprawled on bamboo stretchers, grimacing at the world in death, I'd settle for just seeing them in striped suits, their knuckles white from gripping iron bars and their voices hoarse from shouting, "*Maawa kayo, hu hu hu.*"

At the very least, what's worrisome is that if GMA can be wrong about the living, as proven by Acsa Ramirez, she can be wrong about the dead. There is a clear line between zeal and impetuousness, between earnestness and eagerness, but PR little minds it. The living at least can protest the mistake, even if it is not always the easiest thing to do, as witness the plight of Ramirez. The dead cannot. They can only roam the earth restlessly, while their kin grit and gnash their teeth and ask God why they are gone.

But even if GMA hits the bull's eye every time, even if the characters that end up being "posterized" (as they say in basketball) with her are really out-and-out bad guys, there is something terribly wrong in their being trotted out in public in this way. Alongside GMA's unwavering resolve to execute criminals (she was supposed to start doing so this week but deferred it only in deference to Jaime Cardinal Sin's birthday, adding whole new and macabre, meanings to the phrase, "gift of life") it says not very nice things about how much value the state attaches to life. I myself have always thought the secret of being law-abiding is having a deep respect for life. If that is so, I can't see how the youth in particular, who are currently being exposed to this brand of law enforcement, can grow up being so.

Maybe now we can hear a few words from Cardinal Sin and his favorite bishop named after the wise Greek philosopher?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

GMA did right in canceling foreign trips

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PRESIDENT did the right thing in canceling her state visits next month to three European countries. She proved sensitive to the financial crisis gripping our nation today, owing to poor revenue collection and the state of the global economy. While state visits are very important to our foreign and trade relations, there are more pressing financial problems here which have to be addressed first, not to mention that the crackdown on criminality and bureaucratic corruption could lose momentum if she isn't here. The President's decision to postpone her foreign trips should tell the bellyaching members of Congress that the financial crisis, which resulted in the delay of their pork barrel allocations, is being shared by the Palace.

* * *

I'm glad the police have begun cracking down on hijacking syndicates that have preyed on containers belonging to business firms. Businessmen say hijacking is one of the three most lucrative criminal activities, the other two being bank hold-ups and kidnapping. If it's lean season for hold-ups or kidnappings, crime syndicates resort to hijacking, and businessmen appeared quite helpless in the past. Orchids to the police under Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

As for the bureaucratic corruption, the crackdown on fixers in the Department of Budget and Management and Rep. Miguel Zubiri's exposé on how his family's businesses were cheated of P20 million in tax payments deposited in the UCPB only show how extensive the evil has become. The UCPB scam follows the LandBank tax payment irregularities and apparently they are just the tip of the iceberg.

Apparently many syndicates have thrived because they knew the law would not catch them. GMA's crackdown on bureaucratic corruption and criminality should spell the difference, but there should be no let-up in the campaign.

* * *

I have questioned here the linking of Public Works Undersecretary Mabini Pablo to the P143-million vehicle repair scam in the DPWH, arguing that it seems to violate due process inasmuch as he was never investigated or even summoned by the internal investigative committee during all the six months it was looking into the case. Pablo has argued that he couldn't be accused of gross negligence since the responsibility for such repairs rests at least two levels below his rank.

* * *

My good friend, Government Corporate Counsel Amado D. Valdez, who filed the charges against Undersecretaries Pablo and Edmundo Mir and various DPWH personnel with the Office of the Ombudsman, wrote to stress that Pablo is viewing the case from his "individual perspective" involving his personal liberties. Valdez said there is also the "state view" which looks at the problem of large-scale thievery as "systemic" and not an isolated case of accountability. He stressed that it could not have happened "if the system of accountability of the administrative hierarchy had been observed and discharged." Those in the higher echelons "have the administrative responsibility to prevent their subordinates from committing this act or even prevent the opportunity for corruption," he said.

Valdez argued that considering that the P143 million involved in the scam was so much higher than the allowable ceiling, the failure to stop the hemorrhage when it hit P50 million "must be presumed (to involve) serious neglect by the secretaries." He explained that Pablo's 90-day suspension is merely preventive, and a "recognized instrument" of the state to ensure an impartial investigation, which "must not be subordinated to the right of the individual." Valdez assured, however, that if the undersecretaries are innocent, "then their pain is akin to the suffering of innocent tissues during an intrusive cancer operation in the body politic."

* * *

The Manila Standard reported that former President Estrada is now open to the idea of having his knee surgery done here, except that he can't get a doctor to perform it. His American doctor, Christopher Mow of the Stanford University Hospital, is said to be reluctant to come here due to the recent US travel advisory. Besides he cannot leave his patients in the United States for a few weeks.

I have good news for the former president. My sister-in-law, interior designer Sonia Santiago-Olivares, recently underwent an "arthroscopic surgery" at the Asian Hospital in Alabang to correct a tear in the rotator-cuff of her right shoulder. Her operation was done by Filipino sports medicine specialist Dr. Antonio Rivera, who specializes in the repair of the wear and tear on athletes' bodies.

Sonia is recommending to Erap Dr. Rivera and his colleague from the Philippine Orthopedic Institute, Dr. Ramon Gustilo, who is an expert on the knee-cap replacement surgery that Erap needs. It will be recalled that this institute engaged in a brief debate with Dr. Mow about Filipino expertise and facilities last year, which the American doctor later graciously acknowledged.

* * *

Sonia related that she had gone to the United States earlier to consult two American specialists, Dr. Mow and Dr. James Kelly, and they both recommended surgery for her shoulder. But because Mow couldn't accommodate her at the time, she decided to have her operation done here by Dr. Rivera, upon the recommendation of doctor-friends and after noting that Rivera's diagnosis was exactly the same as Mow's.

After surgery and acupuncture under Dr. Cornelio de la Paz of the PGH, her recovery was quick. Her insurance company was happy because the local surgery cost only a fifth of what it would have cost in the United States. Erap has nothing to fear, Sonia says, we have the expertise and the facilities right here.

Sabah is their home

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN "KK," as Sabah's capital of Kota Kinabalu is known to locals, there's a "Little Philippines" along the coastal highway. The place is nothing but a messy sprawl of shanties on stilts, home to families of fisherfolk, divers, vendors and service workers, many of them Samals from Sulu and Tawi-tawi who've brought their seafaring way of life to Sabah. I suppose many of those among the thousands of Filipinos deported by the Malaysian government from Sabah were residents of "Little Philippines." And it's probable that only a few of them could make heads or tails of this development.

Malaysia early this year ordered the mass deportation of "illegal" Filipino workers in Sabah, after it offered amnesty to all who wished to remain legally on the island. My suspicion is that thousands of Filipinos failed to take up the offer because living in Sabah had been their way of life for generations.

There is no "border" to speak of between Sulu and Tawi-tawi and Sabah. In fact, the Philippine claim to Sabah is based on the documented fact that the oil- and timber-rich island is part of the Sultanate of Sulu. The sultan merely leased the island to the British East Indies Co., but the Brits turned around and claimed it as part of their colonial territory and then passed it on to Malaysia upon independence.

These historical and political arrangements, though, went unnoticed by the people of Sabah and Sulu and Tawi-tawi as they traded and intermarried for generations. The Sulu Sea for them is common ground, a watery highway through which they have conducted commerce and social interaction since before colonial times. The escalation of armed conflict between the government and Muslims rebels since the 1970s also triggered a wave of migration and relocation to Sabah.

* * *

SEEKING amnesty to stay legally in Sabah must have been, for the Filipino settlers, an absurd if not insulting notion. Why would you need amnesty to stay in a place you've always called home?

In terms of distance, cultural identity and even popular culture, Sabah is much nearer to the Philippines than to mainland Malaysia. Philippine radio and TV broadcasts, I've been told, are far more popular among Filipinos and Sabahans than those beamed from Kuala Lumpur.

Which makes the deportees' harsh treatment at the hands of Malaysian authorities all the more reprehensible. Was there cause to treat them like undesirable aliens or suspected terrorists, rounding up families and then separating the members in segregated camps? Given that the order was issued months ago, did they not have enough time to make arrangements for an orderly repatriation of thousands to the Philippines?

Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad Noor Taufik was being disingenuous when he shifted blame for the humanitarian disaster on to the Philippine government. Taufik told the media that the Philippine government had had months to arrange for the transfer of the deportees. But did Malaysia's responsibility end with the arrest and incarceration of the deportees?

* * *

IT was Malaysian government policy, after all, that rendered these thousands of Filipinos "illegal." And if they wished to deport them to the Philippines, then the Malaysian government should have been prepared for the massive repatriation operation. How callous of the ambassador to reject responsibility for the abject conditions inside the holding camps, where food was so scarce deportees said they were fed only one meal a day. Even criminals in prison are entitled to humanitarian treatment.

And what did Taufik expect? That the Philippine government send its own doctors, social workers and crew to carry out the consequences of internal Malaysian policy? Would that not have been deemed meddling in the affairs of a sovereign state?

Malaysia certainly has all the right to determine who should and who should not be allowed to stay within its borders. But there are international covenants that hold governments responsible for the welfare of prisoners and refugees.

What makes Malaysia's harsh treatment even more condemnable is that the great majority of the deportees are Muslims, just like the majority of Malaysians. So they reject any legal liability for the sufferings and deaths of the deportees. What about moral responsibility? Was it too much to expect the Malaysians to show some compassion for their brethren?

* * *

HOW should the local media identify the four hostages believed to be held by a gang identified with the Abu Sayyaf?

The first reports identified them as Avon sales agents, but this was later amended when investigators said all the hostages were Jehovah's Witnesses.

Since then, the hostages have been identified mainly by their religion, though it still isn't clear, and indeed dubious, if they were abducted because of their faith. A representative of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the country, an American who spoke in impressive scholarly Filipino, has denied that the hostages had been proselytizing around Sulu, which is why they earned the bandits' ire. To continue to identify them as "kidnapped Jehovah's Witnesses," then, would not only inaccurately link their religion to their kidnapping, but also elevate it to a religious and even international issue.

The beheading of two male hostages has meant that the remaining hostages are all women. Lately, I've heard newscasters on ANC calling them "women hostages," which I think should do for now, until we have more information on why they were kidnapped in the first place.

'Yalla!'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

My heart has become capable of every form:
It is a pasture for gazelles
And a convent for Christian monks,
And a temple for idols and the pilgrim's Kaa'ba,
And the Tables of the Torah and the Book of the Koran.
I follow the religion of Love:
whatever way Love's camels take,
That is my religion and my faith.
—Ibn al-'Arabi (1165-1240)

IN THE RUN-UP to the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, many individuals and movements belonging to different faiths, race and nationalities are offering their piece for peace in many forms. The poetry websites are deluged with 9/11-related poems, the visual arts have produced artworks both arresting and horrifying. There is a surfeit of songs and essays. Even jokes. And candles and prayers, too.

Many of us have received our share of "information" from psychics and clairvoyants who claim to have predicted 9/11. I referred a persistent one to columnist Jimmy Licauco, the INQUIRER's connection to the otherworldly.

The Asean People's Assembly this weekend has a whole morning for 9/11 and I almost got persuaded into presenting something on it. I declined. A journalist would rather listen, I reasoned. But really, what can I say that has not been said?

But there are refreshing stuff that come one's way and do not belong to the fire-and-terror, tears-and-fears genre. One came from the Embassy of Sweden. It's a charming little book titled "Yalla! Let's Redecorate the Tree" with the subtitle "Sweden and the Muslim Cultural Sphere." Sweden has a population of nine million of which 350,000 are Muslims.

I asked Ambassador Ulf Hakansson what *Yalla* meant and he said it is an Arabic word for something like "Come on!" Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh explains in the foreword that the book focuses on people with roots in Muslim cultures. It aims to provide a basis for discussion and answer questions. What do we know about one another? How do we live together? Do we have prejudices and what can we do about them?

"Yalla!" contains short essays and ancient poems (like the one above) to complement them, interviews, quotations and pictures. Young people, journalists and experts on the issue examine themes such as living together, a new world, common history, religious faith and even the head shawl and "honor killing." "Yalla!" has been translated from Swedish into Arabic and English. You can access it at www.ud.se.

In "Love Train," Nadia Jebril, 19, writes: "When I marry, the first thing I'll do is take an interrail trip with my husband. Out into the world! Anywhere, just the two of us. I believe in love, I dream about it a lot. There are people who look at me and think that because of the way I live and dress—I wear hijab, a shawl!—I've ruled love out of my life. That I'm not allowed to love or even to choose my life partner myself. There are even those who go so far as to claim that dressing like this robs me of my own sexuality, as though sexuality was a privilege granted to all other women on this earth as matter of course."

The Swedes learned the new word *hedersmord* or honor killing some years ago when the press reported a series of murders and murder attempts on young women by their own male kin. The reason for the crimes was that the women's sexual behavior or indecent way of dressing brought shame to their families.

In her piece "Honour Killings in the Land of Equality," Asa Elden, a postgraduate student, complains that the media often described the crimes as extreme manifestations of Islam or Arab culture, the opposite of gender equality in Sweden. And yet, she says, women in Sweden are also murdered by men close to them like their husbands or partners.

Elden writes: "A man who beats and murders a woman cannot escape responsibility for his deeds by citing unemployment or alcoholism or drug abuse, or defense of his family's honor. There is no excuse for beating or murdering a daughter, sister or wife."

The case of Fadime, who was killed by her own father, disturbed Ranna Kas Hanna, 18, whose parents are Christian Syrians. She asks, "What was it that made Fadime's father pull the trigger, why was he unable to withstand the taunts, how could his love turn to hatred? One of the causes of this murder was ignorance. I know that Fadime's in a better place now. She is my heroine-she died for love and for what she believed in."

Ingmanr Karlsson, Sweden's consul general in Istanbul, writes that "Islam is not as alien as we think." He criticizes Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi who said, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 tragedy, that Western civilization was superior to the Muslim world. Karlsson talks of the Islamic contribution to the symbiosis between Islam, Christianity and Judaism and in the fields of science, philosophy and culture.

Freelance journalist Elnaz Baghlhlanian, 20, argues against the shawl. "The hijab denotes that the female body is something dangerous and sinful...it is worn as a sort of security screen, to protect women from the lustful gaze of the male...Yet I still find it difficult to believe that male harassment and violence are going to lessen simply because you wear a shawl. The fact that women are regarded as sex objects has nothing to do with their clothing...the problem lies in the ingrained view of women taken by men and male society."

The publishers say "Yalla!" is not so much about Islam as it is about what happens when people meet in an increasingly multicultural and multireligious world. If it gathers dust on the bookshelf, then they have failed.

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Confessions of a reactionary

YOUNG BLOOD

Lazaro N. Ervite

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I WAS not an activist when I was in college although I appeared to be one. I was an opportunist cloaked with the slogans of activism. Hackneyed slogans like "Down with US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism" were deafening and giving me goose bumps during rallies, but I had to bear with them in order to purportedly advance the interests of the poor, oppressed and marginalized.

As the editor of our student paper, I had to be present during rallies led by activist and left-leaning school and civic organizations, but I was never totally involved in them. At times I got carried away, but I joined the chant for fun and camaraderie, and not to bring down the oppressive system. I was a mere observer, not an active participant, being more interested in getting facts and interviewing organizers for my articles than fighting with the poor and the oppressed for their rights. Despite the scorching heat, fumes and occasional rain, I enjoyed clinching my fists and shouting revolutionary clichés, for it was a way for me to give vent to my pent-up feelings.

I volunteered frequently to represent our school paper in the College Editors Guild of the Philippines seminars and workshops not because I had something valuable to contribute to the organization or because I wanted our paper to espouse the CEGP's causes, but because I wanted to hone my writing skills and know how other school papers were faring. Moreover, I wanted to overcome my insecurities and meeting new friends boosted my self-confidence.

I usually found the lectures interesting for they shed light on some of the roots of our unjust economic and political structures that cause the impoverishment of the majority. At the end of each lecture, I would feel angry and ready to help dismantle these structures, but I usually disagreed that the ultimate solution was an armed revolution that would allow the proletariat to seize power from the bourgeoisie. Dialogues with the government were considered useless for elitist government officials only served their own ends. All capitalist structures had to be dismantled and replaced by socialist ones.

I wanted to express some contrary views and call for moderation, but I couldn't muster the courage to go against the comrades who seemed to have been mesmerized by Jose Ma. Sison's outdated essays. Sison's essays were interesting but they were written in the 1970s and some of their themes were no longer relevant although my comrades considered them as dogmas. To me, Sison's essays were like crutches They enabled the crippled nation to walk in the midst of oppression in the 1970s but they could be crippling if taken as dogma in the post-socialism and post-modern world of the 21st century. No wonder my comrades could not see any change in society and they chose to pursue the cause that the majority had abandoned, although there's more than a grain of truth in their view that the Philippines remained semi-feudal and semi-colonial.

I suppressed the impulse to express contrary opinions. Instead I joined the chorus shouting revolutionary clichés, unwittingly going against two of the CEGP's slogans: critical thinking and freedom of expression. And to think that we took pride in being so critical and unafraid to voice out our sentiments!

I met intellectually gifted students who had abandoned their scholarships in the best schools to continue their schooling in the streets, the slums, the farms and the mountains. Others joined the armed revolutionary movement, and some gave up their lives in the process. I was awed by their selflessness, but I was not inspired by their conviction and methods. Sometimes I felt guilty for staying in my comfort zone, while some of my friends were dying in the battlefields. Yet I could not just push myself to serve the poor so unselfishly and join the group whose ideology I couldn't accept completely.

Nonetheless, the CEGP gatherings made me see the realities of injustice, revolution and life. They helped me deconstruct and reconstruct what I had learned from history. They helped me become more critical and independent-minded. In fact I came out from the CEGP seminars with my own convictions despite the propaganda-laced lectures.

Although I could not fully embrace the CEGP's ideology, I found myself reflecting its ideology in my writings. I gave voice to the unheard and the inarticulate even as the mass media remained under the control of the elite whose interests they promoted.

I was also grateful to the cause-oriented if left-leaning organizations for arranging "immersions" among the slum dwellers, fisher folk and farmers. These programs taught me lessons about life that were probably equivalent to what I learned in college.

I used to despise slum dwellers. When I was a college freshman in Cebu, a small-time thug had snatched my cap as I was passing through a heavily populated slum area. After a three-day exposure in a slum area in Quezon City, I learned to be more compassionate with slum dwellers. For three days, we ate while squatting on the floor and within sight of human excrement floating on the polluted creek nearby and with flies dining with us. At night we slept on cardboards and newspapers as the mosquitoes feasted on us. I could hardly sleep since I was scared that drunken men outside would throw a bottle of beer at us or stab us through the walls which were made of cardboards. Although I was scared of bloodshed and revolution, I found myself telling our hosts that they didn't have anything to lose in a revolution but their chains.

The experience cost me several nights of sleeplessness, yet I could not convince myself that the way out of massive poverty was the one laid out by Mao or Marx or Lenin. But I could not blame some of our companions who urged the slum dwellers to join them in a future revolution since I couldn't think of any alternative.

I could not imagine myself dedicating my entire life to serving the slum dwellers. What sustained me during our "exposures" was not my compassion for the poor; it was the opportunity to be with my crush. One particular exposure in a farming community in a far-flung area of Cebu was heaven to me for it was there that we held each other's hand as we walked in the moonlit night. We even took a bath together in the community well at night. Unfortunately I was too shy to tell her my feelings.

Some of my activist friends will surely label me as a reactionary upon reading this confession. Indeed I was, and I still am. I don't want to dampen their zeal but I would like them to realize that if their idealism were to remain vibrant, they should face realities, listen to contrary views and junk the clichés. Otherwise, they'll continue hearing only their own bells and conclude that they are playing the best music.

Lazaro N. Ervite, 26, is an OSA novice in Talisay City.

Sugar industry seeks a fair shake

LETTERS

FOR GIL Cabacungan Jr.'s information, it was the sugar industry that was sacrificed in the 1994 GATT-Uruguay Round to get preferential treatment for other commodities.

The industry was not consulted when government negotiators conspired to bring down final-bound import tariffs for sugar to only 50 percent by 2003 compared to Thailand's 94 percent, Indonesia's 95 percent, Japan's 288 percent and EU's 134 percent.

The present administration, in endorsing the industry's request for adjustment from 50 percent to 80 percent for the next 10 years, is just trying to rectify this injustice and economic sabotage of an industry that many millions of Filipinos are dependent upon for their livelihood.

Cabacungan wrote that the sugar industry "has been the beneficiary of state protection and subsidies for decades." This is a line that has been incessantly parroted by highly placed members of a business sector who want to import sugar in huge quantities over and above what they actually need as an ingredient in their products. They want to make a lot of money on the side by dumping subsidized foreign sugar in the country to the detriment of sugar farmers, 85 percent of whom are land reform beneficiaries and small farmers tilling one-half to 10 hectares, sugar workers and their families, our meager foreign exchange reserves and ultimately the consumers when they are already dependent on world market sugar where prices can gyrate disastrously at the drop of a hat.

As Trade Secretary Mar Roxas has said, new farming and milling technologies are challenges facing the industry. These challenges have been accepted and are being addressed by the industry to be competitive. However, the real threats are the huge subsidies and protection that, in violation of their GATT commitments, foreign governments still give to their industries, and our own countrymen's misconception stoked by gratuitous statements and a lack of appreciation for the sugar industry's vital role in the country's economic development when it was coming out of the devastation of World War II up to time of the 1970s war in Mindanao. Even the president of that time acknowledged the billions taken away from the sugar industry to finance the military campaign to preserve our territorial integrity.

The sugar industry and its people are not asking for subsidies or protection. It only asks for a fair shake not only from the government but also from the media so that the Filipino people might also appreciate the sacrifices, trials and tribulations that they have undergone for their country's welfare.

—**ANTHONY J. RUSTIA,**
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Missing out on the ICC

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST Tuesday I described the Rome Statute, an international treaty establishing an International Criminal Court (ICC) which will have jurisdiction over "the most serious crimes of concern to the international community." These crimes range from genocide to torture, apartheid and sexual violence.

I pointed out how the treaty represents a milestone in human history, reflecting how nations are moving toward a consensus on what is morally unacceptable, regardless of culture.

Sadly, the Philippines is not one of the 77 countries that have ratified the treaty despite the fact that we have seen many of these atrocities inflicted upon Filipinos. For example, if the ICC had been established much earlier, our comfort women would have been able to bring their case against the Japanese government to that court, charging them with sexual slavery, one of the "crimes against humanity" listed in the Rome Statute. Unfortunately, the ICC cannot try crimes retroactively but an effective ICC could deter such crimes in the future.

Why haven't we ratified it? I do not have the answers but simply by not ratifying the treaty, we find ourselves in the company of other nations that oppose the treaty for the most disturbing reasons. There is, on one hand, the United States which argues that Americans should not fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC. Then there's an odd alliance of countries controlled by religious conservatives, mainly Catholic and Muslim, which oppose some provisions of the treaty because of references to "gender."

Let's look first at the US government. It has refused to ratify the treaty because they want Americans exempted from the court's jurisdiction. They claim that Americans are more vulnerable to international political blackmail and that the ICC might be used against them.

I agree that Americans do have that vulnerability, but they seem to have such little faith in their allies (all the European countries, for example, have ratified the treaty) to make sure the treaty is properly enforced.

There's irony in the US government's opposition. It was the United States that launched many initiatives to bring some sense to international politics: the establishment of the League of Nations after World War I, and the United Nations after World War II. It was the Americans, too, who insisted on a proper war crimes tribunal for Nazi officials after the war.

Today, the American government prides itself on playing the role of an international policeman, even deciding which regimes to overthrow. Yet it now opposes the International Criminal Court.

And it is not taking any chances. Although it has not ratified the Rome Statute, the US Congress went on to pass an "American Servicemembers' Protection Act," authorizing the use of military force to free US "and allied suspects from detention by the court," the court being the ICC. This means that if an American servicemember (that's the gender correct version of serviceman, better known to Filipinos as GI) is charged with an international crime and detained in the Hague in the Netherlands, where the ICC is based, the US government considers it as its prerogative to launch an armed invasion to rescue that GI. Europeans were furious and are calling the new law the "Hague Invasion Act."

Is the Philippine government reluctant to ratify the Rome Statute because our officials do not want to offend the Master? Or is it because there's pressure coming from other international players? There was fierce opposition raised against the treaty by a loose coalition of Catholic and Islamic countries which has been quite visible in many international meetings, questioning provisions relating to gender and sexuality.

The conservative religious groups have protested against the use of terms like "gender" and "forced pregnancy." "Gender" is seen by many conservative religious as a kind of code word for "homosexual." Any mention of "gender" in an international document is seen as an attempt to legitimize homosexuality, or to protect homosexuals, who for the conservatives have no rights at all.

Advocates, mainly women's organizations, who fought to include "gender" in the Rome Statute say the term does not necessarily refer to sexual orientation. Gender crimes, they explain, refer to actions directed against men or women simply because of their gender roles, which may or may not include sexual orientation. What comes to my mind would be the violence that many societies inflict on people simply because they do not conform with what society defines to be "correctly" male or female behavior. Remember that during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, men could be arrested by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Suppression of Vice simply for not having a beard.

The term "forced pregnancy" was mainly opposed by the Vatican and its allies, including the Philippines, which suspected an attempt to legitimize abortion. Actually, the term refers to the practice, quite common during wars, where the rampaging victors rape women intentionally to get them pregnant, and make sure they finish the pregnancy. This is the ultimate humiliation for women—not only have they been raped, they also have to bear the child from that assault, and live with the stigmatization of bearing a child coming from the seed of the enemy.

Do Washington and the Vatican figure in our non-ratification of the Rome Statute? I do not know, but events in recent months show very clearly a growing subservience in our foreign policy. Once again, we are being left behind as the world—as humanity—moves forward.

* * *

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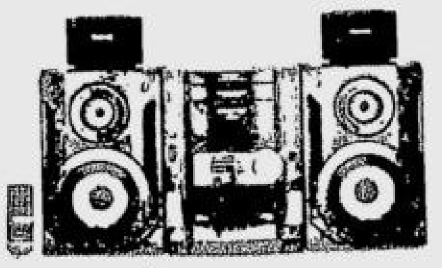

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PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK ON IRAQ

Arabs alarmed by renewed US war talk

LONDON—Renewed US talk of war to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein drew defiance from Baghdad on Tuesday and a warning from Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak that any such attack could plunge the Middle East into chaos.

US warplanes attacked a radar site in northern Iraq and an air defense command facility in the south after what the US military called hostile acts against US and British jets patrolling two no-fly zones in Iraqi airspace.

The allied planes struck as Arab leaders digested Monday's call from US Vice-President Dick Cheney for pre-emptive action against Iraq, saying Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction posed a mortal danger to the United States.

"We could not care less about the threats that are out there. Iraq has a long history with these threats and such despotism," Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan told reporters in Syria after meeting President Bashar al-Assad.

In Baghdad, President Saddam Hussein told Qatar's foreign minister that a US assault on Iraq would be an attack on "all the Arab nation," the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

Saddam said Iraq had implemented all its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and accused the world body of failing to reciprocate by lifting crippling sanctions imposed 12 years ago for Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"If there is a genuine desire to find a solution, it has to be based on international legitimacy, international law and the UN charter . . . and has to include implementing commitments by all parties," the Iraqi leader added.

Iraq has refused to allow UN weapons inspectors into the country since a US-British bombing campaign in December 1998.

US fears that Iraq is developing doomsday weapons and might turn them over to terrorists increased after the September 11 attacks on US cities, which killed around 3,000 people.

But Cheney's remarks caused fresh alarm among Washington's Arab allies, which strongly supported the US-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

"Striking Iraq is something that could have repercussions and post-strike developments. We fear chaos happening in the region," Egypt's Mubarak told a group of students, adding there was "no need" to attack the sanctions-hit Arab country.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani said he was visiting Baghdad to avert a "catastrophe," in clear reference to US threats to oust Saddam by force.

Qatar, which hosts a big US airbase that is now being upgraded, has joined other Arab countries in opposing any US attack on Iraq. "We are of course against any military action," al-Thani told reporters on Monday.

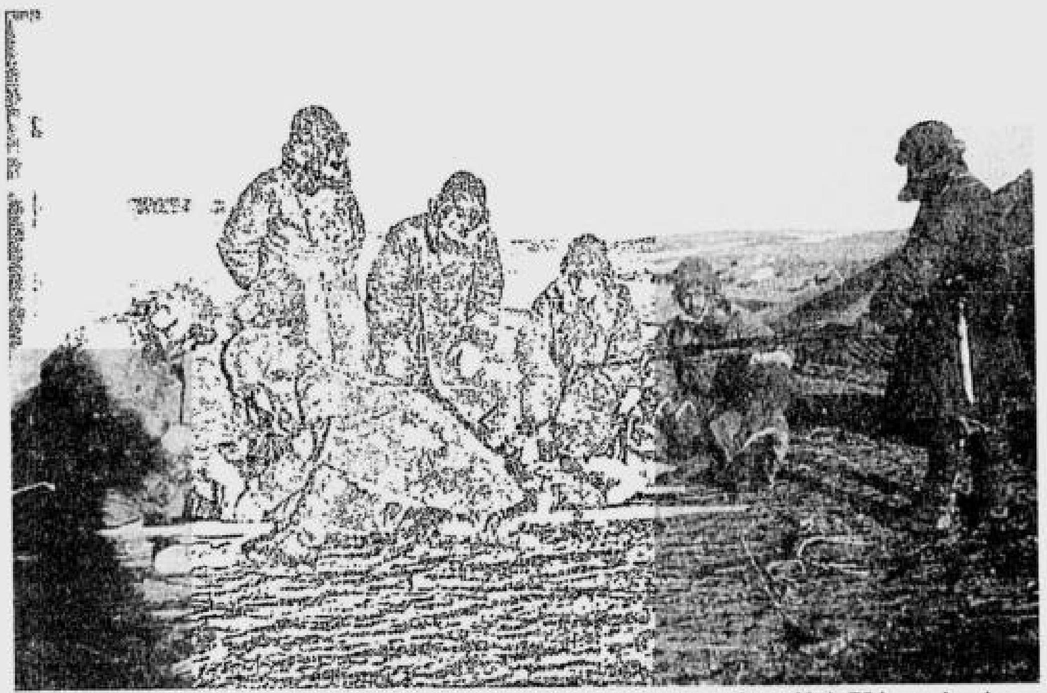
Saudi Arabia, whose domestic and foreign policies have come under sometimes hostile scrutiny in the United States since the September 11 attacks, also opposes any attack on Iraq.

US President George W. Bush pledged in a meeting with the Saudi ambassador on Tuesday to consult with Saudi Arabia and other countries as he approaches a decision on military action.

"On the topic of Iraq, the president stressed that he has made no decisions, that he will continue to engage in consultations with Saudi Arabia and other nations about steps in the Middle East, steps in Iraq," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said after Bush held an hour-long meeting at his Texas ranch with ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

Anti-American feeling is high across the Arab world because of US support for Israel as it tries to crush the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"(Cheney's) position can only express the depth of rancour and hatred for the Arab and Muslim nations," said Ramadan, urging Arabs to close ranks in response. "Public



A FILE photo disclosed by Chinese experts shows Japanese troops from Unit 731 conducting a frostbite experiment on a live Chinese person on a stretcher in Harbin, China's Heilongjiang province, in 1941 during World War Two. A Japanese court on August 27 recognized for the first time that Japan had conducted biological warfare in China during World War Two—something that has never been officially acknowledged by the Japanese government. But the Tokyo District court rejected a lawsuit for damages filed against the Japanese government by Chinese people who said their relatives were killed in the germ warfare conducted by the infamous Unit 731. REUTERS

Japan unlikely to give military help to US strike

TOKYO—Japan and the United States began a full-day "strategic dialogue" session here Wednesday as Japanese media said Tokyo would be unable to give Washington military help if the United States attacked Iraq.

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who arrived here Tuesday, met Vice Foreign Minister Yukio Takeuchi over a working dinner to discuss diplomatic and security issues. Iraq and North Korea are expected to be high on the agenda.

Ashton Calvert, secretary of the Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Department, was due to take part in the talks later in the day.

Armitage called on Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its allies Tuesday to consider support for the United States if it moves ahead with military action against Iraq, according to Japanese lawmakers.

He told them Washington had not yet made a decision on a possible military attack on Iraq which Washington accuses of harboring terrorists and developing weapons of mass destruction.

But he was quoted as asking Japan to "have discussions on what it can do with regard to US action to eliminate terrorism, with a view to the importance of the Japan-US alliance," according to party leaders.

Japanese newspapers said Tokyo was unlikely to provide military cooperation to Washington in the event of an attack on Iraq due to legal constraints. *AFP*

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Earth Summit seeks to protect fish supplies

JOHANNESBURG—An agreement to try and protect diminishing stocks of fish in the world's oceans buoyed the spirits of delegates as they entered the third day of Earth Summit negotiations in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

But some environmentalists are questioning whether the deal can be enforced against pirate trawlers, while core disputes between rich and poor states over aid and trade were set to grind on throughout the 10-day meeting in South Africa.

The draft agreement to replenish over-fished waters by 2015 was a first sign of movement on concrete targets at the summit where some 200 countries hope to put together an action plan to reduce world poverty while preserving the environment.

On other crunch issues such as how to bring clean energy and water to the billions of poor who have none, countries remained starkly divided, with poorer countries accusing the rich north of failing to live up to past promises.

"We're not pretending things agreed at the summit are the be all and end all but it's the first time there has been a date on fishing stocks," said a British delegation official.

"We think it's a very welcome advance." Environmentalists, who have knocked the summit for setting low or non-existent targets, welcomed the fisheries plan secured in preparatory talks at the weekend.

"It's pleasing that they have reached agreement on oceans," said Sian Pullen of WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund.

"We would have liked it to be more progressive but it's good compared to some of the other issues which may be going backwards."

However, she added: "It does recognise the need for enforcement but it doesn't say how it's going to be done. It's a major issue and not one that's been adequately addressed."

Under the new agreement, governments will aim to restore fish stocks to a sustainable level by 2015 at the latest, which could require temporary fishing bans. Governments will also consider setting up permanent non-fishing zones to preserve breeding grounds.

According to the United Nations, more than 70 percent of the world's commercially important fish stocks are over-exploited or heading that way.

Curbing the over-exploitation of natural resources which, if managed properly, could enrich generations way into the future, is one of the main challenges of "sustainable development."

Like the rest of the action plan that heads of state and government are due to agree when they fly in for the summit finale next week, the fisheries agreement is not legally binding. But environmentalists hope it will form a moral basis for action and keep governments under pressure from the public.

In other areas, little progress had been made so far, with the United States resisting calls from European and developing countries to set targets and deadlines not already agreed at previous summits on development and the environment.

Wednesday's keynote talks will include discussions on ways to provide clean water and sanitation for billions who lack them and on using energy, such as solar power, that does not pollute the environment or endanger health.

Amid threats of protest action, South African police are keeping a tight grip around the summit in the plush suburb of Sandton, which lies close to some of Johannesburg's worst slums. *Reuters*

Bhopal victims get welcome court judgment

BHOPAL, India—A court ruled Wednesday that a former chairman of US-based Union Carbide should face culpable homicide charges over the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, rejecting the Indian government's attempt to dilute them to negligence.

The ruling after a two-day hearing by Chief Magistrate Rameshwar Khote in this central Indian city represents a significant victory for victims of the disaster, who had feared former company chairman Warren Anderson would escape justice.

Khote ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had brought the application to reduce the gravity of the charges, to proceed with the culpable homicide case.

Anderson now faces the prospect of being extradited from the United States to stand trial in India, where if found guilty he faces a jail term of up to 20 years.

At least 3,000 people died when a gas leak occurred at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on December 3, 1984 and more than half a million people were seriously injured.

At least another 10,000 deaths have been linked to the disaster, according to victims' groups, who had opposed the reduction of charges.

Should the government have succeeded in getting the charges reduced, Anderson could have evaded trial in India as an extradition treaty between the two countries does not cover cases of negligence. *AFP*

SLEEPING WITH THE, ER, NON-ENEMY AP

Wattana Thongjon, 10, takes a nap on the back of a 1-meter-long, 40-kg crocodile, named Kheng, at his house in Phichit province, 290 km north of Bangkok, Aug. 27. While most Thais regard crocodiles as fearsome reptiles with a yen for human flesh, one man, Prayoon Thongjon, who is Wattana's father, considers the reptile he caught while fishing three years ago a source of comfort and companionship and has kept it as a pet ever since.

Palestinians want non-violent intifada, says poll

JERUSALEM—Eighty percent of Palestinians would support a non-violent protest against Israeli occupation, and a vast majority of Israeli Jews would back their right to a state in such conditions, according to a poll published Wednesday.

"Eighty percent of Palestinians would support a large-scale non-violent protest movement and 56 percent would participate in its activities," the survey by the Search for Common Ground (SFCG) organization said.

"Seventy-eight percent of Israeli Jews believe that the Palestinians have a legitimate right to seek a Palestinian state, provided they use non-violent means," said the survey entitled "Surprising potential for non-violent intifada."

SFCG, which claims to be the world's largest non-governmental conflict prevention and resolution organization, said a vast majority of Palestinians "express willingness to participate in various specific non-violent actions, including boycotts and forms of mass civil disobedience."

The survey comes as all the main Palestinian factions have been struggling to unify their position, discussing what form the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation should take in the future.

However, the survey also admits that "both Palestinians and Israeli Jews are unsure about the feasibility of a large-scale non-violent movement." *AFP*

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Flu epidemic kills 700 people in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO—The death toll in a flu epidemic on the giant Indian Ocean island of Madagascar has surged to more than 700, with reported cases rising above 18,000, health officials said on Tuesday.

The illness has swept across five out of six provinces on the island—which is larger than France—since it first appeared in June, hitting malnourished villagers the hardest.

"The province of Antananarivo has also been affected by the severe flu, which has hit other regions in Madagascar since June, killing more than 700 people as of Monday," Samuel Andriamparany, a top government health official, told reporters.

Health officials say the illness—known as "raporapo" on the island—claims 95 percent of its victims from among impoverished peasants with no access to modern medical care.

The UN's Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) said on August 13 that 444 had died and a further 13,300 cases had been reported since the illness appeared.

Many of the victims are children suffering from a poor diet on the island off southeast Africa, one of the world's poorest countries.

Madagascar has only just emerged from six months of political crisis, which devastated the already shaky economy on the island of 16 million, plunging many into deeper poverty.

The WHO had earlier said the number of deaths had surged in the past two weeks to 671, with reported cases nearly doubling to 22,646.

The agency said the worst hit region was Fianarantsoa in the southeast. Government officials say that only the northern province of Antsiranana has been spared.

But a WHO spokesperson said that some of the sharp rise in recent days could simply reflect better monitoring of the situation by health officials.

"The explanation . . . could be improved surveillance between the ministry and the WHO," spokesperson Fadela Chaib told reporters.

A WHO team of experts is in Madagascar advising the Health Ministry on measures needed to contain the epidemic.

Samples taken from victims of the illness have shown it to be Type A influenza. The infectious illness causes severe headaches, followed by neck and chest pains. *Reuters*

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Chavit foes won't let go of charges

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Officials of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) questioned the basis of the Ombudsman in dismissing three of five graft and plunder cases against former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Sisa, in its motion for reconsideration filed on Aug. 20, accused the Ombudsman of being afraid to use its powers on Singson.

"Probably, the Ombudsman was afraid to use this power against the respondent, who is the most powerful man in Ilocos Sur and an important witness of the government in all of its cases against (ousted) President Joseph Estrada," Sisa said.

The group also said the timing of the release of the decision was "doubtful," as it came before Singson testified before the Sandiganbayan on the plunder and criminal cases against Estrada.

The cases against Singson were dismissed on July 11 and July 22 but Sisa officials received the copies of the Ombudsman's resolutions only on Aug. 16.

SINGSON

"(The) complainants cannot help but note that the timing by which the resolutions . . . were released appear to be doubtful. Could it be that the resolutions dismissing (these cases) were made in return for Governor Singson's testimony? The complainants do not have to emphasize the obvious. But isn't it that justice should be given to everybody?" Sisa added.

Singson just laughed off Sisa's appeal and allegations.

"I do not have to worry about it. If their allegations were true, why did Erap, during the height of our quarrel, not file (graft and plunder) cases against me? The continuing efforts by Sisa are (aimed at) discrediting and destroying me," Singson told the INQUIRER.

The Ombudsman, in a 16-page joint resolution issued July 22, dismissed the graft charge against Singson and five Ilocos Sur officials for the ghost purchase of a P9.5- million backhoe in 2000. Also dismissed was the technical malversation case against Singson involving P30 million from the tobacco excise tax share of the province.

The Ombudsman cited lack of probable cause in pursuing the cases.

In a separate six-page resolution issued on July 11, the Ombudsman dismissed the graft charge against Singson for the Ilocos Sur government's purchase of alleged overpriced land for P26 million in 1998.

It found that there was no sufficient ground for the allegations.

5 towns face flooding threat due to spillway

IBA, Zambales—Five towns in Zambales face the threat of disaster following reports that floods have damaged the spillway of a huge dam abandoned by a mining firm in San Marcelino town and that cracks have been observed in the dam, provincial officials said.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said the damaged spillway of the mine tailing pond used by the Benguet Corp.-Dizon Copper Operation (BCDCO) at Sitio Pili in Barangay Buhawen in San Marcelino was caused by recent typhoons and floods.

Magsaysay said the towns of San Marcelino, Castillejos, San Antonio, San Narciso and San Felipe were identified as "areas of concern" due to flash flood threats.

A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources sent to check the dam warned that the structure would collapse if no immediate measures were done.

"If the dam bursts, we think its effect would be more devastating than Mt. Pinatubo. It is possible that houses and buildings in the path of the flash flood would be destroyed," said Frank de Lara, provincial environment and natural resources officer.

De Lara said the impounded water is mixed with mercury and other highly toxic chemicals as a result of mining operations by the BCDCO.

"(These chemicals are) capable of killing (people) and work animals and destroying the immediate environs," he said.

Records from the San Marcelino government showed that the dam used by BCDCO served as a depository of mine wastes for 17 years.

But BCDCO officials, in earlier interviews, described the dam as one of the safest in the country because it was designed to withstand strong earthquakes.

The dam stands at 300 meters above sea level and covers an area of more than 10 hectares. It contains about a million cubic meters of heavily silted water, records said. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Give us schools, says Panay tribe

ILOILO CITY—The indigenous people of Panay have asked the government not to send troops but instead build satellite schools in their communities where they can relearn their culture and traditions.

Communities of Tumanduk, also known as Bukidnon and Sulodnon, living in Tapaz town, Capiz and Calinog, Iloilo have separately asked the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), through the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), to establish weekend schools for youth on weekends.

"Building schools is a lot better than sending Army soldiers in the communities of indigenous people," said Lito Espanola of the NCIP.

Eighteen indigenous communities in Jamindan and Tapaz towns recently protested the presence of Army soldiers, recruitment of their men into the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgu), and test bombing in the 33,000 hectare military reservation in Jamindan.

The Tumanduk have claimed the reservation as part of their ancestral land that was taken from them by virtue of a proclamation of then President Diosdado Macapagal in 1962.

Espanola said the proposed schools would be similar to the NCAA-funded Central Panay School of Living Traditions established in Barangay Garangan, Calinog, Iloilo. The school, also known as Balay Turun-an (house of knowledge) taught children, ages 8 to 16, how to dance the *binanog* that imitates the movements of a hawk, play musical instruments like gongs and flutes, chant the epics, weave baskets and learn needlework.

Balay Turu-an is the first of its kind in Panay. It is also supported by the Center for West Visayan Studies of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and NCIP.

Espanola said that the proposed schools in Calinog and Tapaz would be built in the town centers. It would cater to high school students who could not trek back to their homes in the mountains every weekend. The P40 fare of a motorbike is prohibitive while the 13-kilometer hike is physically demanding. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Presidential Proclamation no. 242 hits advertising industry.

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declares August 26–31, 2002 as Advertising Week.

In recognition of the advertising industry's role in national development
and in the uplifting of the moral and social consciousness of the Filipino people,
Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the period
from August 26 to August 31, 2002 as Advertising Week.

The proclamation coincides with the 25th anniversary celebration of the 4As featuring
the first-ever advertising summit to be held on August 29-31, 2002 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

August 29 • Registration / Tribute to the Founding Fathers
25 Top Advertisers / 25 Advertising Mavericks
August 30 • Business Sessions / Agency of the Year Awards
August 31 • Student Fora / Business Sessions / Pilak Awards / ABS-CBN Party
Limited SHOW ONLY / SRO tickets available at the Registration Area, Lobby Lounge.

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ROUNDUP

Death sentence for ex-cop

SAN JOSE CITY—A judge here last week sentenced a former policeman to death for the murder of a rice mill helper in 1996. Judge Bayani Vargas of the regional trial court here found Jeremias Madriaga, the former head of the traffic section of the local police, guilty of shooting and killing Mario Andrica. At that time, the rice mill was being serviced by the security agency managed by Madriaga. Wedson Baltec, supervisor of the security agency, turned state witness and told the court that Madriaga, who was drunk, shot Andrica and asked another companion to shoot the victim. Madriaga was dismissed from the police service in 1999.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

Alleged pusher killed

SORSOGON CITY—Three unidentified men shot and killed on Saturday a suspected drug pusher in Barangay Abuyog this city. The victim identified as Benjamin Lagamayo, 33, single and a resident of the same place, bought sea shells from a fish vendor and was walking home when the suspects approached and shot him point blank in the head and in other parts of the body. Lagamayo died on the spot. Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police provincial director, said city police are still conducting an investigation. Recovered from the crime scene were bullet cartridges, a bullet slug for 9mm-caliber pistol and a note written on two sheets of coupon bonds in red ink, saying "Wag tularan, drug pusher (Don't imitate, drug pusher)."

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebels kill civilian

SORSOGON CITY—A 46-year-old resident of Barangay La Union, Castilla, Sorsogon was shot dead by a group of armed men believed to be New People's Army rebels at around 7:30 p.m., Sunday. Juan Aguilar, married, was on his way home when the suspects blocked him and shot him in the head and chest. The suspects fled to a forested area, leaving Aguilar. *Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 rebels nabbed

SORSOGON CITY—Elements of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 202nd Infantry Brigade caught three alleged guerrillas during an operation in Barangay Guruyaan, Juban, Sorsogon on Sunday. Col. Pedrito Magsino, 202nd IB commander, identified the suspects as Rolando "Ongpin" Mustasa, Edwin Dematera and Jose Tanada. Among the items recovered from the suspected guerrillas were a laptop computer, a .45-cal. pistol, a Nokia 6110 cell phone unit, two hand grenades, two cylinders of oxygen tanks for air guns with case, a medical kit, three backpacks with personal belongings and communist documents, and cash amounting to P60,000.

Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Most prepared province

LEGAZPI CITY—The National Disaster Coordinating Council has cited Albay as one of the country's models for efficient response to disasters and calamities, natural or man-made. Albay Gov. Francis Bichara said Albay has been cited for exemplary performance because its disaster preparedness plan has benefited the people, especially those threatened by the unpredictable eruption of Mayon Volcano. Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, in his letter of commendation to Bichara, said his office is ready to support all the programs of the province that are designed to alleviate the sufferings of constituents in times of calamities. Lina cited the provincial government for being able to safely evacuate residents living within the danger zone before the eruptions took place last year, resulting in zero casualty.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Town wins award

SORSOGON CITY—Sta. Magdalena town in Sorsogon got this year's Green Banner Award for efficient implementation of nutrition programs. It won the award with a rating of 98.7 percent for outstanding nutrition program implementation for 2001-2002. Mayor Julieta Frayna said residents help the local government sustain the effort to minimize malnutrition among children, especially those in far-flung barangays, through fortified food-feeding activities and by providing nutrition supplements and disease immunization programs.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Kids' center in Legazpi

A SOCIAL Development Center for the street children of Legazpi City will be inaugurated today by Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal and First Secretary Alastair Mckenzie of the Australian Agency for International Development. Rosal said the center will serve as processing and drop-in center for street and urban working children and other children who suffer from abuses. It will also be used as a training center for social workers, volunteers and beneficiaries and for the city government's comprehensive social services program. McKenzie said the Philippines-Australia Vulnerable Groups Facility of AusAID aims to help the Philippine government provide social services to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the country, according to an AusAID press release.

Pupil, 12, stabbed

LIGAO CITY—A mentally deranged person stabbed a Grade 5 pupil on Wednesday, leaving the victim lifeless in Barangay Tuburan here. Sherwin Eres, 12, was having his recess outside the East Central Elementary School when the suspect stabbed him in the back. Eres died immediately due to the deep stab wound he sustained. Insp. Antonio Peñafiel, case investigator, identified the suspect as Hipolito Llaguno, 26, resident of Daraga, Albay. Recovered from the suspect was a kitchen knife, which he used in stabbing Eres. Llaguno is now detained at the Ligao City jail.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Talk of Marcos burial in 'Maharlika' grave spreads

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Speculations about elaborate burial plans for the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos refuse to die down.

For days now, the provincial capitol's maintenance teams have been sent in separate occasions to clear a mountaintop at a southern village in Batac town.

The dictator's remains have been preserved in a refrigerated crypt in the Marcoses' ancestral home in Batac since 1993.

A cleaning brigade of eight employees from the provincial capitol's maintenance crew and the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Batac scaled a mountain in Barangay Payao last week on orders of the capitol's community affairs office, a member of the crew said.

The MMSU main campus owns land in the village for its community outreach projects and agro-industrial courses.

"We just weeded out the bushes and developed a trail on our way to the mountain's peak," the crewman told the INQUIRER.

He said: "We were told that the area was chosen as a possible burial site of the late President Marcos."

The employees rode in a service car at the foot of the mountain and trekked for more than an hour to reach its peak.

"We had to stop several times to catch our breath because the mountain is too steep. Once we reached the top, it was a different air up there. The view is simply exhilarating. It was as if you can reach out to the Currimao coast," the source said.

He said they also cleared an area for a supposed helipad. The mountaintop could accommodate at least three helicopters, he said.

According to Batac Mayor Jesus Nalupta, the strongman's widow Imelda Marcos had inspected the mountain ranges of Barangay Payao on her earlier visits to Ilocos Norte.

Mrs. Marcos reportedly broached the idea of installing cable cars to provide visitors access to the area.

Sought for comment, Lito Gorospe, the Marcoses' spokesperson, said: "It's the same as what we did in other places. But nothing is final just yet. Mrs. Marcos is just looking here and looking there."

Gorospe said the Marcoses have abandoned their plans to have the former president buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"There's this resistance in Manila. That's the reason for looking at these places," he said.

Gorospe declined to reveal the timetable that the Marcoses are working on for the burial.

The Marcoses are also in the thick of plans to mark the former president's 85th birthday on Sept. 11, a traditionally declared public holiday in Ilocos Norte.

Asked about the chances of a Marcos burial either in time for his birthday or within the year, Gorospe said: "There's nothing definite yet, more so with the burial date. Granting there's already a site, there's going to be a lot of preparation. That's Mrs. Marcos. That's her idea."

On her visit here recently, Mrs. Marcos announced her intention to have her husband finally buried in his home province.

The Marcos widow is reportedly setting her sights on a park-and-garden grave site that would be called "The Maharlika."

EFFORTS by the Marcos family to immortalize the dead dictator continue even as protesters fail to erase remnants of the dictator's deeds, like this stone face in Tuba, Benguet. FILE PHOTO

MORE MEN VS REBS

Politicians' bodyguards pulled out

MATI, Davao Oriental—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the recall of soldiers detailed as bodyguards of politicians and private individuals to reinforce the military's manpower.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, told the INQUIRER that the President's order, issued last week, was prompted by her declaration of an all-out war against the communist rebellion.

"The (recall order) was geared at augmenting the very small number of our armed forces now fighting the New People's Army rebels," Dagudag said.

He would not specify the numbers of soldiers under the 4th ID serving as bodyguards, but Dagudag said on the average, at least five soldiers serve as security escorts for politicians or private individuals.

"We in the 4th Infantry Division are now complying with the President's order by notifying all these politicians and private individuals that we are going to recall all our personnel assigned to them. I think it is very necessary considering that we have a very small armed forces," Dagudag said.

As expected, the President's recall order did not sit well with politicians.

A politician here said the recall order has compromised the security of officials.

But Dagudag said the President's move was necessary to strengthen the military's forces against the communist rebels.

Dagudag urged politicians and private individuals to instead hire private bodyguards.

"You cannot expect us to be your private security guards because that is not our mandate," he said.

The President's order came after Philippine National Police Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the police's efforts against criminality was paying off.

Ebdane made this claim in a statement read by a proxy during the turnover of command at the Southern Mindanao police office here last week.

During the change of command, Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña was installed to replace Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, who would be assigned as chief of the Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group (CIDG) replacing Director Nestorio Gualberto.

Ebdane said for the past 47 days, dozens of criminals involved in serious crimes have been arrested.

"Today, our efforts are yielding the best dividends," Ebdane wrote in his speech read for him by PNP deputy director for operations Gen. Edgar Galvante.

Ebdane said the best defense against crime is prevention and a dedicated police force ready to protect citizens round the clock.

"In the world of organized crime, like kidnapping, prevention must be bolstered by preemptive strikes," the police chief said.

"Prevention is target-hardening and that is what we have been doing." *Anthony S. Allada and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

FATHER TIME DENNIS SABANGAN

The years have drawn lines on the face of Adil Sulayman, a Tausug elderly. Most of the years that Sulayman spent in his native Patikul, Sulu had been those of fear and war as Moro guerrillas continue their quest for independence and the government continues to keep a republic intact.

6 Bataan drug ring members fall in raids

BALANGA CITY—Six suspected members of a drug-trafficking syndicate, including two policeman, in Bataan were arrested in four simultaneous police operations here on Monday, regional police officials said.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director, said two policemen and two other drug suspects were also arrested in separate raids.

Calderon said the synchronized anti-drug operations in Balanga City, Hermosa, Mariveles and Pilar towns led to the arrests of suspected Soyangco Gang members Marlo Gatbonton, Carmelita Quintero, Fernando and Arturo Santuyo, Rusty Urbano and Raymundo Mendoza.

A regional trial court in Mariveles, Bataan, issued the search and arrest warrants for the suspects.

Police recovered a .45-cal. pistol, a hand grenade and bullets from Gatbonton. The five other suspects yielded sachets of shabu each weighing five grams or less.

The report did not describe the extent of operation of the Soyangco Gang and its network in Bataan, a peninsula close to Metro Manila.

Supt. Sahiron Salim, Bataan police director, said police operations are ongoing to arrest the gang's top leaders.

In a separate raid, Bataan police arrested Elpidio Cruz, a retired policeman, in a hotel in Hermosa town.

Police said Cruz yielded at least 12.17 grams of shabu when he was caught during the raid.

PO3 Francisco Villaruz, assigned with the 303rd provincial mobile group of the Bataan police, was also arrested on Monday while in the company of suspected marijuana suppliers Romnick de la Cruz and Ronnie Torres. At least 16 plastic sachets of dried marijuana leaves were seized from them.

Calderon said Villaruz tested positive for shabu.

Salim said they have filed administrative and criminal charges against Villaruz for his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade. *Greg Refraccion and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NBI agents use fake P500 bills in drug buy-bust

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For lack of money for a buy-bust operation, undercover agents from the National Bureau of Investigation used fake P500 bills to lure a drug pusher to deliver shabu to his buyers, which led to his arrest.

Lemuel Balabag, accompanied by his common-law wife Jennie, was presented Tuesday to the media and Mayor Agustin Perdices by NBI agent Miguel Dungog, along with their two buyers-turned NBI informants.

Dungog said the couple, from Bacolod City, came to Dumaguete City to replenish the stock of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) that they had delivered to their buyers-pushers. They were supposed to collect P20,000 from last week's stock, and bring in more shabu into the city.

The informants paid the couple a bundle of P500 bills but only one was authentic. The buy-bust operation was conducted Monday at a local hotel. The fake bills were provided by the NBI but agents did not say where they got them.

7 injured as bomb explodes in parked bus

KABACAN, Cotabato—At least seven people were injured during an explosion inside an air-conditioned bus owned by People's Transit inside the Kidapawan City public terminal on Tuesday afternoon.

The bus was bound for Davao City and was fetching passengers when the explosion occurred. Another bus, owned by its sister company Weena Bus, which was parked beside it, was also damaged.

The Kidapawan City Disaster Coordinating Council identified the victims as Rommel Bacag, a market guard; fruit vendors Jesusa and Marissa Yonco; Juan Sagusay, a tricycle drive and bus passengers Emmelia Cabano, Marieta Patacon and Evangeline Silvano.

Police investigators said no shrapnel was recovered from the site of the explosion, which led them to conclude that the bomb was not meant to kill.

The injuries of the victims had been caused by shattered glass from the bus' windows.

Investigators said the bomb could have been placed near the bus's radiator.

A Weena Bus employee said the explosion could be the work of a group of extortionists.

He said the same group might be behind the series of explosions targeting Weena Bus in the past.

On July 14, at least 18 people were also wounded after a bomb went off inside a Rural Transit bus here.

But despite the attack and its unfavorable image because of recent clashes between government forces and rebels and incidents of kidnappings, Central Mindanao posted an increase in investments during the first half of the year, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Ibrahim Guiamadel, DTI regional director, said compared to the same period last year, this year's investment figure went up by 35 percent.

From January to June, the total amount of investments reached P2.3 billion compared to last year's P1.7 billion.

Most of the investments came from new players, while the rest was brought in by expansion in the aquamarine sector.

South Cotabato got the biggest slice in investments with P1.4 billion followed by Sultan Kudarat with P480 million.

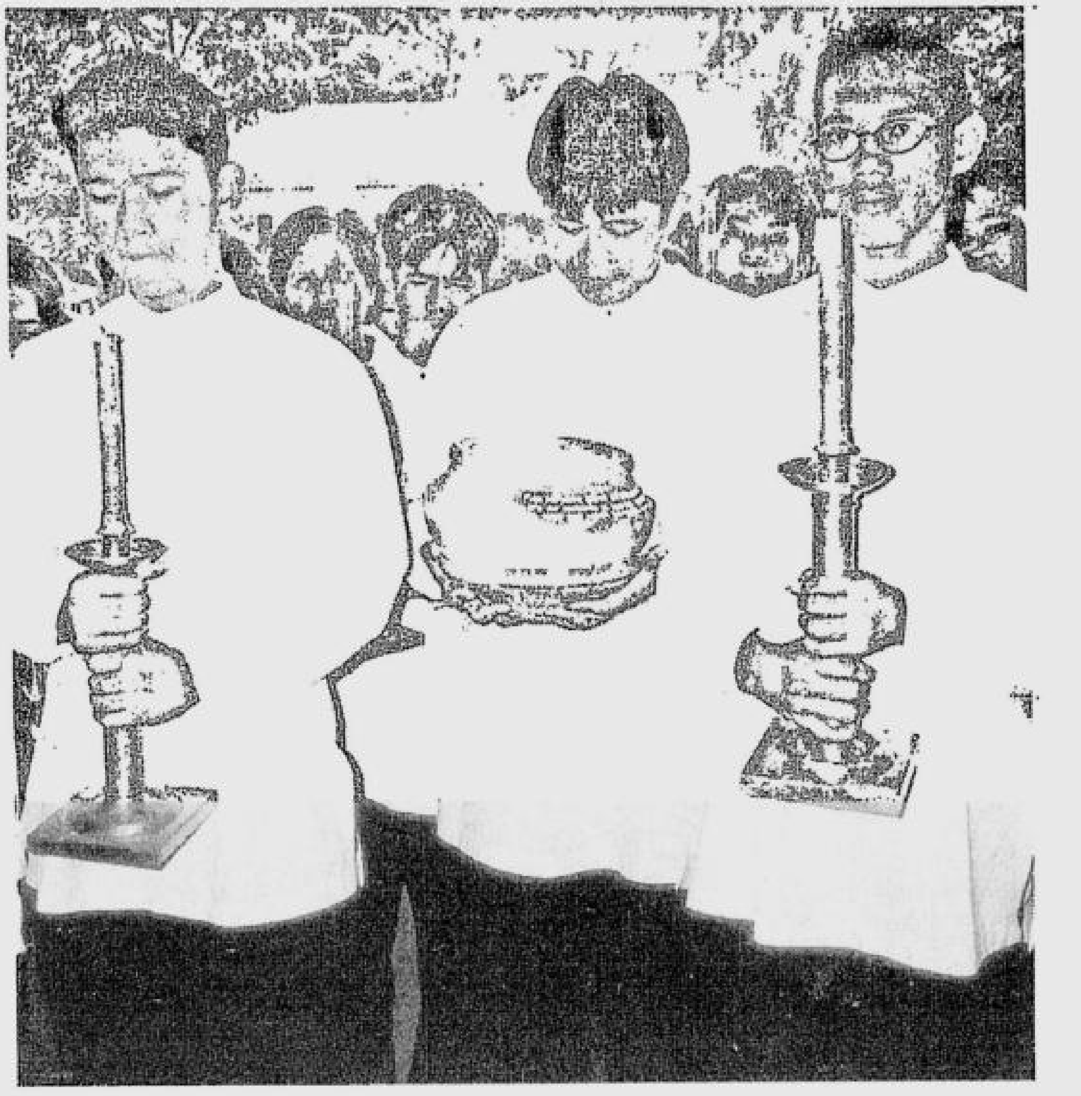
Sarangani had P319 million in investments, Tacurong City got 85.96 million and Kidapawan City had P43.52 million. *Edwin Fernandez and Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Albay pots inlaid with religious devotion

By Roly Casim Embile
Tiwi, Albay

WHEN the Most Rev. Jose Sorra, bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi, raised the host and chalice during the Mass in honor of the Our Lady of Salvation, the patroness of Albay, a seminarian, flanked by two candle bearers at the foot of the altar, lifted an earthen pot or *coron* of incense to purify the offering.



A SEMINARIAN carries the incense in a "coron" or earthen pot during a Mass celebrated in honor of Albay's patroness, the Our Lady of Salvation. ROLY EMBILE

The symbolic use of the pot, instead of the traditional gold-plated thorifer, recognizes the two most enduring symbols of the province, particularly the town of Tiwi—the *coron* industry and the devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Thus, the Coron Festival was organized by the people of Tiwi on Aug. 15-17 as a fitting tribute to the lowly household item and to their divine protector and intercessor.

Prehispanic craft

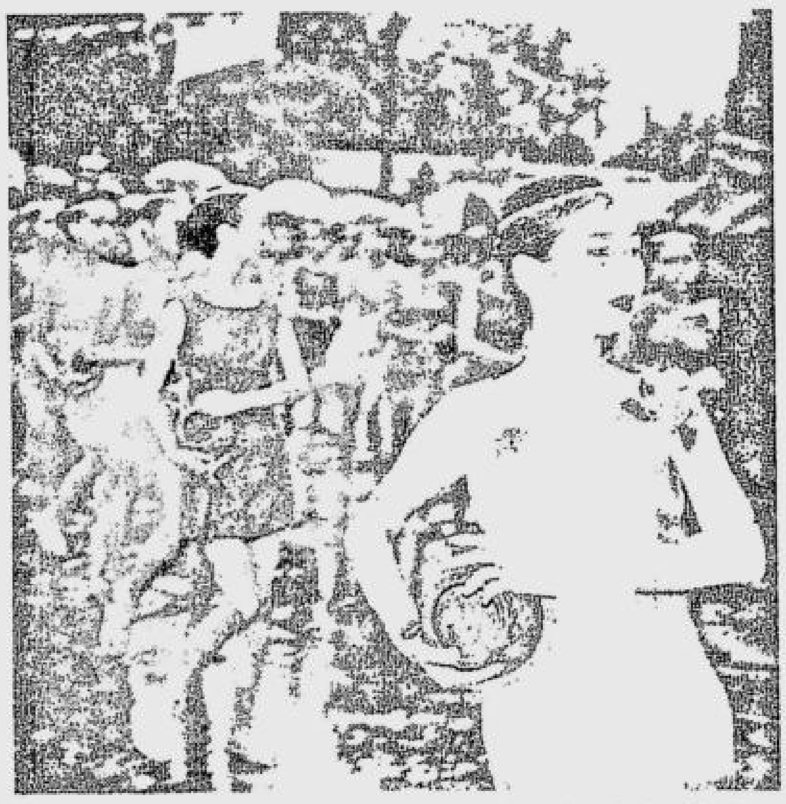
According to local historians, the earthen pot industry, along with fishing and agriculture, was thriving in the coastal town even before the Spaniards arrived in the country more than five centuries ago.

Tiwi Mayor Patria Gutierrez says the historians trace the industry's roots to several archaeological sites, including remains of ancient houses made of bricks and locally produced tiles where various earthenware items had been found.

"Our history, our culture and the richness of our environment had been etched in our *coron*," says Gutierrez, who claims that some of her forebears were themselves pot makers and entrepreneurs.

She refers to the region's colorful rich flora and fauna painted on terra-cotta pieces, pans, flower vases, figurines of pet animals, religious icons and other handicraft items.

For hundreds of years until the advent of the mass-produced plastic and metal household and industrial wares, the *coron*—in varying shapes and sizes like the *dulay* (water jar), *daod* (drinking vessel) and *subongan* (cooking pot)—had been used in almost every household in the country.



STUDENTS dance in the streets despite bad weather during the first Coron Festival held in Tiwi, Albay. TONY MACASINAG

In Barangays Putsan, Baybay and Bolo in Tiwi are excellent *coron* craftsmen whose skills are but the natural result of living in a land so abundant in potter's clay.

Jose Torrente, 48, says that close to 70 percent of the people living in his village of Putsan and its neighbors are engaged in pot making and trace their craft to their ancestors.

Motherly protection

The industry and the tenacity of the Tiwinhons in the face of hardships and harsh environment have for ages been the cornerstone of their once affluent community.

Their history is replete with accounts of destruction caused by typhoons and attacks by "*moro*" pirates from Mindanao. And time and again, the people of Tiwi and the rest of the region have sought the intercession of the Virgin Mother.

Masses, processions, novenas and pageants depicting the deliverance from natural calamities and armed incursions are the highlights of the celebration of the feast of Tiwi's patroness.

The Our Lady of Salvation is considered one of the most revered by the Bicolanos. Its shrine in Barangay Joroan, 12 kilometers north of Tiwi's *poblacion*, is found on a promontory overlooking the Lagonoy Gulf.

Every year, on the third Saturday of August, tens of thousands of devotees from across the region flock to the shrine to pay homage and thanksgiving for answered prayers.

Going to the place itself is both an exhilarating and harrowing experience to both first-timers and returning pilgrims. Vehicles have to negotiate the sharp turns and curves of the "hanging road" along the edge of the mountain. But the road offers a breathtaking view of the Lagonoy Gulf and the rustic scenery of the fishing villages below.

The people of Tiwi believe they have been especially blessed and chosen as keepers of her shrine.

Miraculous image

In his homily during the Mass last week, Bishop Sorra cited the "miraculous" circumstances surrounding the image of the Our Lady of Salvation, which he has adopted as the Diocesan (provincial) Patroness.

Legend has it that one day in 1776, while clearing the land he was tilling, Mariano Dakuba, a salt maker and caretaker of a piece of land owned by Don Silverio Arcilla in Kagnipa (the old name of Joroan), cut down a tree for firewood.

But several hours under the scorching heat of the sun, the tree's leaves remained fresh and did not wilt, prompting Dakuba to think that there was something supernatural about the tree. He brought the wood to Buhi town in Camarines province, where Joroan once belonged, and reported the incident to his landlord named Don Silverio.

The perplexed landlord sought the advice of a Spanish friar in Buhi, who then commissioned a sculptor named Bagacumba to carve religious icons out of it. Three images were produced—those of the Our Lady of Salvation, St. Anthony of Padua (now venerated in Buhi's parish) and the Our Lady of Solitude (now enshrined in the chapel of Tambo, also in Buhi).

On Aug. 25, 1776, the image of the Our Lady of Salvation was blessed and given for veneration to the people of Kagnipa, a sitio of Buhi. The villagers built a chapel made of *nipa* and bamboo on top of a hill for the image.

In 1805, a typhoon destroyed the chapel, and succeeding ones thwarted many attempts to reconstruct it.

At the behest of Francisco Borondia, the parish priest of Tiwi, the image was transferred to his church with a promise that as soon as the chapel was rebuilt, it would be returned there. It was not realized until Nov. 20, 1919 when Bishop John B. MacGinley canonically erected the parish of Joroan.

Maritime procession

On the feast day, the image is carried on the shoulders of barefoot devotees from the mountain shrine to the beach of Joroan for the fluvial procession. Along the dirt road leading to shore, boys and girls bearing varnished *coron* pots sway to the beat of drums in "Ati-atihan" tempo.

The crashing throngs of thousands of devotees, many of whom stood vigil at the church the day before, follow, repeatedly shouting "Viva la Virgen!" (Hail to the Virgin).

The program commemorates the time when the image had to leave Joroan when its chapel was destroyed by typhoons, for safe sanctuary in the parish church of Tiwi.

The boat bearing the image of the Virgin is festooned with flowers, banners, ribbons and balloons in the motif of the Vatican colors of gold and white.

Close to a hundred fishing boats, from the two-seat *sibid-sibid* or oar-powered outrigger vessels to the bigger and more powerful motorized ones—all decorated and bearing their own marian icons—join the seaborne pageant.

Token of gratitude

Tiwi Mayor Gutierrez says this unique procession of the Virgin Mother's image may also be regarded as a token of gratitude for the year-round bounty from the seas, considering that August is the start of the tuna fishing season.

"The maritime procession could be taken further as an act of thanksgiving for sparing our town from the crushing blows of typhoons and the murderous attacks of pirates," she says.

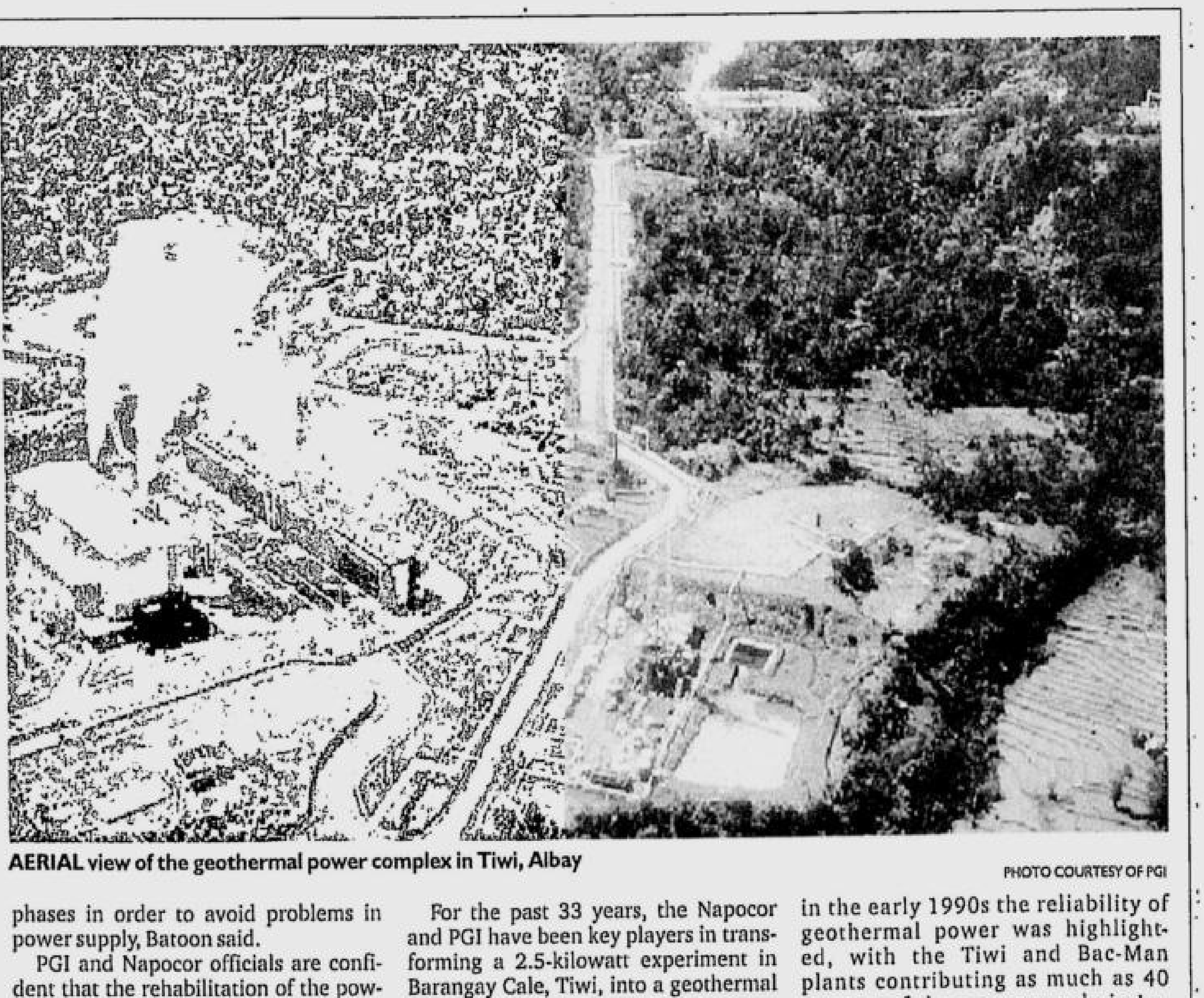
Sure enough, the Bicolanos, especially the people of Tiwi, have the daunting task of praying doubly hard for divine intercession for their most pressing needs, which is the next windfall from their resources.

And that Malacañang and the state-owned National Power Corp. made good their promise of a multibillion-peso program to rehabilitate the outmoded and non-productive geothermal power facilities of Tiwi.

Steam power propels Tiwi

By Ronnie Lorejo
Tiwi, Albay

STEAM-PRODUCING Tiwi town, nestled at the foot of Mayon Volcano, is not only blessed with rich soil out of which Albay's most sought-after clay pots are made. Its geothermal resources have also made the town even popular as these have helped feed energy to the Luzon power grid.



AERIAL view of the geothermal power complex in Tiwi, Albay PHOTO COURTESY OF PGI

With a land area of 11,628 hectares, Tiwi has limitless potentials. Its geothermal features attract both investors and tourists, as the town offers a magnificent view of Mayon and countless hot springs.

Just recently, local officials and executives of Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) inaugurated a P24-million multipurpose center inside the Naglagbong Geothermal Park.

Now open to tourists, the park itself speaks of Tiwi's natural geothermal resources and beauty. It offers a panoramic view of Mt. Malinao and Mayon and a jump-off point for educational tours and eco-tourism activities, like trekking and mountaineering. It has picnic sites, a natural buffer zone, an indoor museum, a conference venue and an information center.

The Naglagbong Geothermal Park is a tribute to the local residents by Unocal Corp. and its subsidiary, PGI, which produces steam for the National Power Corp., according to Tiwi Mayor Patria Gutierrez. It marks 30 years of geothermal development in the country.

To help ensure an efficient power supply, the Japan International Cooperation Agency has approved a P4-billion loan for the full rehabilitation of the Tiwi and Bac-Man geothermal plants, especially turbines, pipelines and accessories, at the boundary of Bacon, Sorsogon and Manito, Albay.

Upon completion of the project in 2004, the Tiwi geothermal plant is expected to produce at least 250 megawatts of electricity. Rehabilitation would start early next year.

Mini Batoon, PGI-Tiwi asset manager, said only one of the six units in the plant is operational, with a peak production of only 17 mW. This output is not enough to sustain the daily electricity needs of the entire region alone, she pointed out.

The project will be implemented by phases in order to avoid problems in power supply, Batoon said.

PGI and Napocor officials are confident that the rehabilitation of the power plants would result in a reduction of electricity rates in Bicol.

For the past 33 years, the Napocor and PGI have been key players in transforming a 2.5-kilowatt experiment in Barangay Cale, Tiwi, into a geothermal industry.

During the crippling power crisis in the early 1990s the reliability of geothermal power was highlighted, with the Tiwi and Bac-Man plants contributing as much as 40 percent of the power supply in Luzon.

Kuala Lumpur denies raps of harsh treatment

From page A1

deportation from Malaysia. But Sidin Karim, operations chief of a Malaysian task force responsible for illegal immigrants, said the two died most probably of dehydration during an "extremely hot day."

"The deaths were unfortunate, but it was an isolated incident," Sidin told The Associated Press. "We cannot attribute it to overcrowding. The situation at our centers is very conducive for detaining people."

The two children—a 6-month-old girl and a 10-month-old boy—were buried in Malaysia at their parents' request, Sidin said.

He said there were no reports that the two were sick before boarding the vessel.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Monday that another child had died after returning to the Philippines.

Sidin, however, said Malaysian authorities had no knowledge about the death of a third Filipino child.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar urged Philippine and Indonesian authorities to discuss with the Malaysian government any concerns over its treatment of illegal immigrants. He stressed that relations with both countries remained strong.

"You must remember—in deportations, sometimes there is overcrowding," Syed Hamid told the AP. "We are doing what is humanly possible under the circumstances . . . We do not just send them to the high seas and let them go."

Malaysia is trying to quell anger in the Philippines and Indonesia over a crackdown on illegal immigrants that has forced more than 300,000 foreigners to leave in recent months to escape strict new penalties, including whipping and longer prison terms.

The Philippine government filed a formal protest with Malaysia on Tuesday amid reports of maltreatment of Filipinos during deportation operations in Sabah, a Malaysian state on Borneo island near Western Mindanao. One senator called it "ethnic cleansing."

Improved conditions

In Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja yesterday said conditions at the Sabah detention centers had improved less than 24 hours after Manila protested the inhumane treatment of the illegal immigrants.

Citing reports transmitted by Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes, Baja said Malaysian authorities were also expediting the work of consular teams in processing the transport of Filipino detainees to receiving stations in Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City.

"The Filipinos were given better food and better living conditions," Baja told reporters in a news briefing. "They are even transported in air-conditioned buses from the detention centers to the ports."

Even so, Brillantes told Agence France Presse that Malaysian authorities had not yet responded to the protest note.

"Clearly, when deaths happen, there is no recourse but to bring the issue to attention. The note is not intended to exert damage on the relations. It is better for Southeast Asian brothers to ventilate their disagreement so that it can be settled," Brillantes told AFP.

"There is a lot of anger in the Philippines," he added.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Tuesday that conditions at the detention centers should be "immediately improved," and that Philippine consuls told him that Filipinos were in crowded detention facilities, sometimes without food and water.

3 daily meals

Sidin denied this, saying the detainees were given breakfast, lunch and dinner each day and medicine on request.

He said they were not kept in cells "like prisoners," but could roam freely within the detention centers.

"For us, there is nothing to improve," Sidin said. "Everyone is being treated with proper respect and consideration. There has never been anything like an outbreak of disease, since health authorities come to inspect the place from time to time."

Each of Sabah's two main detention camps was designed to hold up to 1,200 people, and there are only about 600 Filipinos being detained in Sabah, Sidin said.

Most of the illegal immigrants are expected to be deported within the next few weeks. Some of them, however, might be charged under the new laws, which provide for up to six strokes of a rattan cane, fines of up to 10,000 ringgit (US$2,600) and prison terms of six months to five years.

Indons angry too

Indonesian rights groups and politicians have called Malaysia's new policy inhumane, and the Malaysian government has urged its citizens to avoid traveling to Indonesia for fear of harassment.

A Malaysian foreign ministry official said Indonesian Ambassador Hadi A. Wayarabi had been summoned to hear Kuala Lumpur's concern over the security of its citizens after protestors toppled the main gate of the Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta and burnt the national flag.

The foreign ministry requested protection for its citizens, he said, and quoted the ambassador as saying that Indonesia respected the repatriation of illegal immigrants and would not interfere with the internal affairs of Malaysia.

The protestors were enraged by Malaysia's tough new penalties for illegal immigrants, which include a minimum jail sentence of six months and up to six strokes of the cane—a punishment described as "insulting and inhumane."

Malaysian courts have imposed caning sentences on groups of illegal immigrants almost daily since the July 31 expiry of an amnesty that saw the exodus of more than 300,000 people, most of them Indonesians. ***Reports from AP, AFP and Norman Bordadora***

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Ebdane: No more kidnaps by December

From page A1

are able to solve this problem within six months, (by) December."

The President appears to have been sufficiently assured.

Saying that her administration had contained the kidnapping menace, she shifted the focus of her war against crime by launching a renewed campaign against illegal drugs.

Ms Macapagal made the announcement after meeting with officers of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) and the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Malacañang.

"I want to announce this as the launch of what's going to be a very, very sustained and high-intensity drug campaign," she said at a briefing.

But the PNP is not about to drop the case of Supt. Willie Marohombsar Dangane's alleged links to the Pentagon kidnap group.

"We are reviving the administrative charges against (Dangane)," said Director Lucas Managuelod of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM).

Asked if the DIDM had found no sufficient evidence to pin down Dangane, Managuelod said the PNP was "morally convinced that there is."

Very happy

Ebdane said the media would be a big help to the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) if it did not report a kidnapping case until the victim was rescued, as what happened in the recent abduction of 4-year-old Patricia Lopez Chong and her nanny.

"The President was very happy with your cooperation," he said. "Nothing came out of the abduction of Patricia, and (the news blackout) made it possible. If there's cooperation, we can do this."

Military, police and Pacer agents rescued Chong and her nanny, killed Marohombsar and arrested three of his cohorts during a Sunday morning raid on a safehouse in Magallanes, Cavite.

At an anti-kidnapping summit in Manila on July 9, the President ordered the PNP to focus its efforts on neutralizing the 21 kidnap-for-ransom groups.

Ebdane yesterday said that in its more than one month of operation, Pacer has cracked the Solido, Villaver, Lucido-Estillore and Durano gangs.

He also retracted his earlier statement that the hunt for elusive Pentagon leader Tahir Alonto in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had been called off.

"It's a continuing undertaking," he said.

Ebdane had earlier said that he was depending on the offer of leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to hunt down and arrest Alonto.

On drugs

Ms Macapagal said there was now a need to put more stress on the anti-drug campaign following the successful drive against kidnapping, particularly the killing of Marohombsar.

She said the drug menace was an "underpinning problem" in the peace and order situation.

She pointed out that many of the criminals whom she previously presented to the media were "on drugs when they were doing their crimes" and "on drugs when they were arrested."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, chair of the DDB, said there was a growing consensus among board members to advance the target of making the country drug-free from the original 2010 to 2005.

He said the renewed anti-drug campaign would be directed at both pushers and users.

Lina noted that an estimated 1.8 million Filipinos used drugs regularly, and 1.6 million were "casual" users.

He said the government would identify pushers and users in every city and municipality for surveillance and subsequent arrest.

"There's a list already, but we have to validate it and we have to go through the process," Lina said.

In a prepared statement, the President said the government would adopt what she called a "supply and demand reduction strategy" in the war against drugs.

Lina said the drug trade in the country was estimated at P250-P300 billion a year.

Appeals court's 'best justices' . . .

From page A1

to President Macapagal-Arroyo by the Judicial Bar Council (JBC) for appointment to the high Court.

They have other things in common. Both got the most number of votes from the nine-member JBC. They were tied at seven votes each.

Both came from the appellate court. And these two Ilocanos rose from the ranks.

Morales has been in the judiciary for 19 years—eight years in the CA and 11 years with the regional trial court. Callejo served 16 years in the judiciary—eight years in the CA and eight years as an RTC judge. He was chair of the CA's 11th division.

Morales and Callejo started as private trial lawyers, became trial judges, and later promoted associate justices of the Court of Appeals.

The 61-year-old Morales is a cousin of Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who was appointed by President Macapagal last year.

On July 9, she was conferred the Ulirang Ina Award for Law and the Judiciary by the Father's Day Mother's Day Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.

In her personal data sheet submitted to the JBC, she wrote that "collecting affordable works of art" and gardening are her hobbies.

A native of Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Morales is the daughter of the late Judge Lucas Carpio of the Court of First Instance in Digos, Davao Del Sur.

A product of public schools, Morales obtained her pre-law at the University of the Philippines with a degree in Economics in 1964. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws degree at the UP Law School.

Before she entered government service, Morales was an assistant lawyer at the Atienza Tabora Del Rosario Law Offices from 1968 to 1971.

For her first job in government, she was special assistant to Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos and several other justice undersecretaries.

For seven years she worked at the justice department as assistant lawyer, researcher, assistant special lawyer and later senior state counsel.

In April 1983, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos appointed her trial judge of the Regional Trial Court in Pili, Camarines Sur.

After Marcos was deposed in 1986, President Corazon Aquino plucked her out of the province and designated her judge of the regional trial court of Pasay City.

She was promoted executive judge in 1993 and held that position until she was named to the court of appeals in 1994 by President Fidel Ramos.

Until her appointment to the high court yesterday, Morales had been the chair of the CA 7th Division.

The Bedan

Just like Morales, Callejo had to work his way up. The 65-year-old magistrate was born in Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur.

A graduate of San Beda College, Callejo worked in the '70s in two private firms, including the Jose W. Diokno Law Office, before venturing into public service.

Ramos appointed him CA associate justice in 1994. Prior to that, he served as presiding judge of the Manila Regional Trial Court and later executive judge.

He was twice honored as outstanding judge of Manila in 1991 and 1994.

Besides his legal duties, Callejo shared his expertise in criminal law and procedure from 1988 to 2001 as he taught at his alma mater, San Beda College, Far Eastern University, Ateneo De Manila University, Arellano and UP.

SC Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban hailed the Palace for choosing the two magistrates from among the nine names recommended to President Macapagal by the JBC on Aug. 14.

"They're most deserving. They are two of the best Court of Appeals justices that we have," said Panganiban of his new colleagues.

But not without misgivings on the part of the President.

What happened to Azcuna

During a luncheon with Palace reporters yesterday, Ms Macapagal admitted that she wanted to appoint Adolf Azcuna and that she made her preference known to the JBC.

She also admitted having told former President Corazon Aquino that she would have appointed Azcuna, who served as Aquino's presidential legal counsel.

Under the law, the President can only choose her appointees in the judiciary from the JBC's shortlist.

Azcuna did not make it to the list since he fell short of the required minimum four votes.

"I don't make promises," the President replied when asked if she promised Aquino that Azcuna would be named to the high court.

"What I told Mrs. Aquino was that I understand Adolf was not included in the list. I would have wanted him to be in the list, something like that," she said.

"Well, I do have my representatives in the JBC who of course express my sentiments there," she added.

"But there is a process provided by law and we don't go beyond anything provided by law."

Reports earlier this week said the President, through presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz, asked the JBC to reconvene and to include Azcuna in its shortlist.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who chairs the JBC, had said in a TV interview that he would not allow a reopening of the deliberation.

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We assure the public that all the PAMPI member companies continue to provide safe quality products manufactured under strict scientific basis and certified by responsible institutions and government agencies to be safe, healthy, and compliant to regulations.

13 children dead in Sabah exodus

From page A1

have left Sabah and about 4,000 others are awaiting deportation. Up to 500,000 Filipinos live in Sabah.

President's concern

President Macapagal-Arroyo has expressed concern at the suffering of Filipino illegals held in detention centers while awaiting deportation from Malaysia.

She is "very concerned, especially when she saw that tape," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on radio, referring to television footage of the holding centers in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

In the footage, at least one woman was seen weeping over her dead child.

The President "is personally doing something about it," Bunye said.

Today, the President is scheduled to see for herself the condition of the thousands of Filipinos deported from Sabah over the past several weeks. This morning she will visit Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, designated entry point of the deportees.

Ms Macapagal said she would inspect the processing centers and meet with officials responsible for the deportees.

Crisis manager

The President named former Tawi-Tawi Rep. Nur Jaafar as overall "crisis manager" to oversee the welfare of the deportees.

Jaafar will coordinate with the regional directors of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, of the Department of Health and of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"So all the regional directors will have to follow what he says regarding this issue," the President said.

Always crying

Soliman said that aside from serious dehydration that can lead to death, some Filipino deportees were suffering from mental stress and malnutrition.

"*Masyadong* mentally stressed *ang mga* deportees, especially those mothers with their babies. You can see that some of them are no longer eating, showing anxiety and always crying," the social welfare secretary said.

At least 21 of the mentally distressed deportees were confined at the Bongao Provincial Hospital in Tawi-Tawi.

Parisya Taradji, social welfare director for Western Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that Filipinos detained in Malaysian jails were starving.

"There was inadequate food and drinking water inside Sabah holding centers and Sandakan jails," Taradji said.

Taradji said that at least 10 children had been separated from their parents because of the chaos at their port of origin. The minors have been brought to the Lingap Center in Barangay San Roque, Zamboanga City.

Doctors

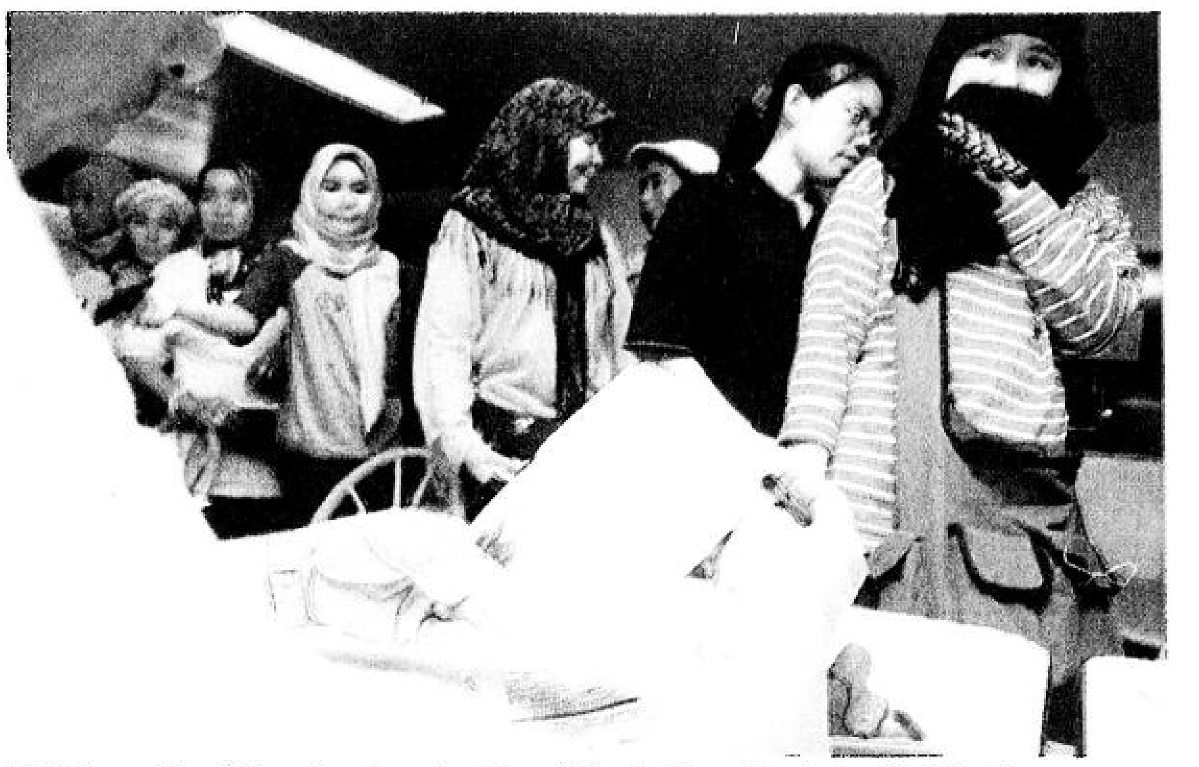
The President has ordered Jaafar to go to Sandakan to see how Filipinos are treated prior to their deportation. He will be accompanied by doctors who will accompany the deportees on Philippine Navy ships.

Jaafar was a member of the defunct Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook (LTP) of the Western Mindanao Autonomous Government in the 1980s. After his stint in the LTP, he served as Tawi-Tawi governor during the Aquino administration.

In 1992, he ran for Congress representing the lone district of the island province. He was reelected and eventually finished his three terms as representative. His daughter, Dayang-dayang, succeeded Jaafar in the House of Representatives.

During a luncheon with Palace reporters, Ms Macapagal said she saw no need to take up the matter with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

She said she was confident the two countries could work out a way to make the deportation orderly.



LONG, grey line of deportees from Sandakan, Malaysia, in varying states of grief arrive Wednesday at the port in Zamboanga City. DENNIS SABANGAN

"My impression is that even the Malaysian officials were abhorred with what they saw on TV. Remember Sabah is autonomous like ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) is autonomous," the President said.

She said Malaysian authorities had assured Foreign Secretary Blas Ople that they would handle the situation in a humane way.

"That is why Secretary Ople has said that there is some gap between what they assured him and what actually happened, and he would like to call their attention to that," she said.

"I am confident that if we work together we will be able to make it much, much more orderly, as it has been orderly in the past," the President said. ***With reports from Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AFP***

Compensation, apology urged

From page A1

bassy in Makati, members of the Akbayan Citizens' Action Party demanded an apology and better treatment of Filipinos being shipped home.

Riot police held off nearly two dozen protesters yelling "Filipino deportees have human rights, too!" and guards closed the embassy gates after an activist climbed a steel fence and others tried to barge inside.

Maricris Cabreros, spokesperson of the protesters, said Malaysia should apologize and the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo should work to ease the poverty and violence in Mindanao that triggered mass migrations into relatively wealthy Malaysia.

Akbayan president Joel Rocamora said his group condemned the Malaysian government's savage and inhuman treatment of Filipino illegal migrants.

"While it has the right to deport non-citizens, Malaysia is bound by international accords and the laws of common decency to respect the human rights of the people it chooses to eject from its territory. Apparently, Prime Minister Mahathir's disregard for the human rights of his countrymen extends to an even haughtier disregard for the human rights of foreigners," Rocamora said in a statement.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon also demanded an apology from Mahathir.

"He should apologize for the monstrosity of his people," Macarambon said.

The deportations are an offshoot of the Immigration (Amendment) Act 2002 the Malaysian parliament passed on April 8. It came into effect on Aug. 1.

Under the law, illegal immigrants and those harboring them face a maximum fine of 10,000 ringgit ($2,600) or a jail term of not more than five years, or both.

The amendments also imposed, upon conviction, not more than six strokes of the cane on illegal immigrants and employers found guilty of giving shelter to five or more illegals.

Since February, about 64,000 Filipinos have left Sabah and about 4,000 others are awaiting deportation. Up to half-a-million Filipinos live in Sabah.

Drilon

Drilon took exception to the statement of Malaysia faulting the Philippine government for not preparing for the massive expulsion of Filipinos.

He said Malaysia had the obligation to provide the facilities for deportation of Filipino citizens because it was enforcing its laws.

"Therefore, the obligation of the Philippine government to provide facilities was debatable," Drilon said. "In other words, yes, we have the moral duty to help our citizens but if there's a delay, we should not be blamed," he said.

He said the death of Filipino children during the boat ride back to the Philippines showed the sub-human conditions of the deportees.

He, however, expressed confidence that Malaysia would heed the government's protest.

"I would like to think that given the friendly relations between Malaysia and the Philippines, Malaysia would seriously consider this," Drilon said.

Biazon

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the government should have acted much earlier or immediately after Malaysian law was passed last April.

Biazon said the contingency funds of Ms Macapagal could have been used to deploy a ship from the Philippine Navy or a C-130 from the Philippine Air Force to effect an orderly deportation of Filipino illegal immigrants.

Sen. Juan Flavier lamented that the government was "reactive" and not "pro-active."

He said the government acted only when television footage showed the inhuman conditions of deportees who arrived in batches in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City.

In the House of Representatives, Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat sought a House inquiry into the deportation of Filipinos from Sabah.

With a report from AP

Solons call for review . . .

From page A1

ippines should "revisit our legal claim to Sabah through open negotiations for the welfare of our Muslim brothers."

Marcos said the Philippine government should take "decisive action" on the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos living in Sabah and various parts of Malaysia.

But she raised the need for a "calibrated response" to the perennial diplomatic irritant between the two countries.

"Let us also not be too aggressive in pursuing our claim. *Timpi-timpi din tayo*," she said, and noted that conflict over the issue escalated during the term of President Diosdado Macapagal, the incumbent's late father.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon also urged the government to revive the claim.

"Right is right . . . Sabah is a property that belongs to our nation," said Macarambon, who added that his great-great grandfather was "one of the fighters of the Sultan of Sulu in retrieving the crown of the Sultan of Sabah."

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on the Department of Foreign Affairs to "carefully study" the matter to determine whether the national interest dictated the pursuit of the claim.

Sen. Joker Arroyo agreed with Drilon, saying that the claim should be revived peacefully in any forum to remind Malaysia that the Philippines had not given up its claim to the territory.

In a chance interview at the DFA, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the decision was up to the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac).

Ople said the DFA would toe whatever line the Ledac determined.

"Sabah is legally ours," Lozada said. "Unfortunately, what is legal is not all the time practical because of the doctrine of the occupier being the owner."

He said the Philippines' claim to the territory was put on the backburner during the term of President Fidel Ramos on the recommendation of the 27-member advisory council on Sabah.

Lozada, Ramos' foreign affairs adviser and appointments secretary, was a member of the council formed in 1992.

He said the council met only once and came up with the recommendation that the "political aspect" of the issue be set aside and that the economic development of the area take precedence over the contentious problem of who owned Sabah.

He said the creation of the BIMP-Eaga (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asian Growth Area) was part of the policy to promote a borderless Asean economy.

Lozada said the council met with the eight Sulu claimants. The agreement, he said, was that Malaysia and the Philippines would provide them the capital to put up their business.

However, he said, nothing came out of it because the council failed to meet again. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Christine Avendaño and Norman Bordadora***

Deportees fear . . .

From page A1

illegal immigrants include up to six strokes of the cane and a minimum jail sentence of six months.

Alicia Lintok, a native of Basilan, said being imprisoned in Malaysia was less of her concern.

Lintok, who worked for more than 10 years as a cook in Kudat in Sandakan State, said the motivating factor for them to come home was the rutan whipping.

Soledad Rosal, 34, originally from Pagadian City, said that a number of Filipinos had experienced caning since Malaysian authorities implemented stricter immigration laws three months ago.

Rosal, a waitress at the Foodah Forest Plantation Product in Tamarodo, also in Sandakan, said the caning was so hard that one would develop discoloration of the skin.

"The marks left by the caning last for a long time that Malaysian authorities use them to identify repeat offenders," Rosal said in the vernacular.

Rosal was earlier arrested for lack of documents, but she said caning was not implemented then.

Had she been subjected to the punishment, she would have carried the marks until today.

Lorna Wabinga Abdul, 28, who hails from Minglanilla, Cebu, said the Malaysians called the marks "*patcha itum.*"

"You can mistake it for a hematoma but it won't heal. That's why (illegal immigrants) fear it much," Abdul said.

Lieutenant Senior Grade Mary Nancy Pastor, spokesperson of the Naval Forces South, said arrested aliens would have to endure up to six months of caning in Malaysia.

"We were told that the punishment would last up to six months," Pastor said as he explained why the marks remained for some time.

And so after 18 to 22 years in Malaysia, Lintok, Rosal, Abdul and hundreds of "voluntary deportees" finally sailed for home so they would be spared from the "horrors" of caning.

Packing whatever belongings they have, including television sets, broken electric fans, and clothing, they queued at the Sandakan Port for the long trip to Zamboanga.

Mothers could not even find time to give their sick children medicine, as the most important thing for them was getting out of Malaysia as soon as possible.

Some hardly cried when their children died because there was simply no time to grieve. They have to catch the boat.

Tired and hungry, most of the deportees who managed to catch the jampacked boats vowed not to set foot on Malaysian soil again although they earned more money there than they could earn in their lifetime in the Philippines.

Aurelio Dojeles, a resident of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte, who went home with his wife Joy and their six children, said he would just till his small farm.

"Farming is the only work I know," he said.

Haber Hadji Bakri, 35, said he would go fishing in his native Sulu to support his family of six. "It's hard to look for a job here," he said.

For Mustakim Sap, 28, and his wife Soraya, becoming coconut harvesters in Sibuco in Zamboanga del Norte would be the most practical alternative to earn a living.

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TENNIS: US Open 2002–Men's First Round/Women's Second Round at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Senior PGA–SBC Senior Open Highlights at 3 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Alaska hangs tough, trips Talk N Text

By Roy Luarca

GAMES TOMORROW *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.—SMB vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk N Text

THE ALASKA Aces got a new lease on life last night and Coach Tim Cone intends to keep it that way in the PBA Commissioner's Cup semifinals.

Powered by Anjani Williams, the Aces nipped the Talk N Text Phone Pals, 84-81, at the Philsports to force a Game 4 tomorrow.

Williams poured in nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter even as Ali Peek, Rodney Santos and Rob Duat lent a hand to foil the Phone Pals' last attempt to come back in a game that nearly went out of control.

Tempers flared up and the two teams confronted each other heading to the dugout as several Phone Pals, led by Pete Mickeal, confronted the referees for what they perceived as errant calls.

Duat canned two free throws with 8.6 seconds left to seal the count as Phone Pal Mark Telan was called for travelling even as his three-pointer found its mark. As it turned out, however, Telan's jumper also failed to beat the buzzer.

"This team has a lot of pride. We came here not just to avoid a sweep but win. We're still looking to win the series," said Cone, who praised his wards for hanging tough when the going got rough.

The Aces built a 55-41 spread behind Chris Carawell in the third quarter but saw that bubble vanish as the Phone Pals rallied through Mickeal.

A seven-point cluster, capped by Elmer Lago's triple, shoved Talk N Text on top, 75-74, but Peek answered with five straight points to regain the lead for Alaska.

The Phone Pals of coach Bill Bayno still hold a 2-1 edge in the best-of-five series.

Cone cited Jojo Lastimosa, Peek, Duat and Santos for stepping up after starter John Arigo sustained a hamstring injury in the first quarter.

"We caught them (Phone Pals) unaware tonight but I'm sure they'll be ready on Friday," said Cone.

Scores:

ALASKA 84—Carrawell 32, Santos 14, Williams 14, Duat 10, Peek 9, Lastimosa 5, Arigo 0, Reyes 0, Allado 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Mickeal 34, Honeycutt 24, Lago 8, Evans 6, Telan 4, Demape 3, Belano 2, Pablo 0.

Quarters: 26-17, 43-39, 61-58, 84-81.

THEY'RE HERE. Members of the Melbourne Tigers, led by coach Lindsay Gaze (right, below), arrive last night for today's start of the two-day series between RP-Selecta and the Australian two-time champions. ROGER MARGALLO

Gaze: RP 5 can win Asiad gold

By June Navarro

GAME TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
7 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Melbourne Tigers

LINDSAY Gaze, one of the most celebrated basketball coaches in Australian history, believes the Selecta-RP team has what it takes to win the gold in the coming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea next month.

"I haven't seen the Philippine team play for a long time but I understand this is its best chance of beating the powerhouse teams in the Asian Games," Gaze told the INQUIRER last night minutes after he stepped out of the plane at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

He was with his team that flew in from Melbourne--a 7-hour flight to Manila.

Although Gaze points to China as the strongest basketball country in the entire region, the 65-year-old coaching guru said the Nationals have the tools to beat the Chinese in the Asiad.

Gaze based his assertions on the Selecta-RP's recent stint in Europe where the Nationals beat Ukraine despite losing against Italy and Latvia.

"I was quite impressed with the results. They beat Ukraine and that's a very impressive feat," said Gaze.

He mentioned Mick Pennisi as the only player he knew in the RP team. He said he saw the 6-foot-8 Red Bull center play in one of the leagues in Australia.

In the Asiad, China tops his list while the second and third best squads are a toss-up among South Korea, Japan and the Philippines.

"Korea, Japan and the Philippines are slowly moving up so I believe there's a big chance of beating China," said Gaze. "So I expect them to do well in the Asiad."

Gaze, on his 20th season as head coach of the Tigers, arrived at 6:35 last night with Australian National Basketball League superstars Mark Bradtke and former PBA imports Lanard Copeland and Marcus Timmons. Also arriving was Andrew Gaze, Lindsay's son.

Other Tigers who came to give the Nationals a feel of what it is like to be in the international basketball arena are 6-foot-7 Stephen Hoare, 6-foot-6 Nathan Taylor, 6-foot-6 Matt Reuter, 6-foot-8 Neil Mottram and 6-foot-5 Greg Blake.

The Tigers will meet the Selecta-RP Team in a pair of tune-up games beginning today at the Cuneta Astrodome and on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Except for Smith who stands at 6-foot-4, the rest of the Tigers have a ceiling of at least 6-foot-6, with Bradtke being the tallest at 6-foot-10.

Gaze, Australia's flag-bearer during the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and Copeland are the Tigers' oldest citizens at 37 while Bradkte, the NBL's reigning MVP, is at the peak of his career at 33.

Gaze saw action for Washington ('93-'94) and San Antonio ('98-'99) in the NBA and suited up for Seton Hall University in the Finals of the USNCAA in 1989.

Lindsay Gaze, the third winningest coach in NBL history with a total win-loss record of 290-266 in 19 seasons, has steered the Tigers to two NBL crowns ('93 and '97) and two runner-up finishes ('92 and '96).

As a fearsome cager, the 65-year-old Gaze saw action in three Olympic Games ('60, '64 and '68). He called the shots for the Aussies in the world quadrennial meet four times from 1972-1984.

GAZE: China can be beaten.

China removes Wang from world cagefest

BEIJING–Chinese basketball authorities on Tuesday dumped star center Wang Zhizhi from the national squad for the world championships, citing the star's supposed lack of patriotism.

In a lengthy statement on its Internet site, the China Basketball Association (CBA) slammed Wang for not returning to China for national team training following the end of his NBA season with the Dallas Mavericks.

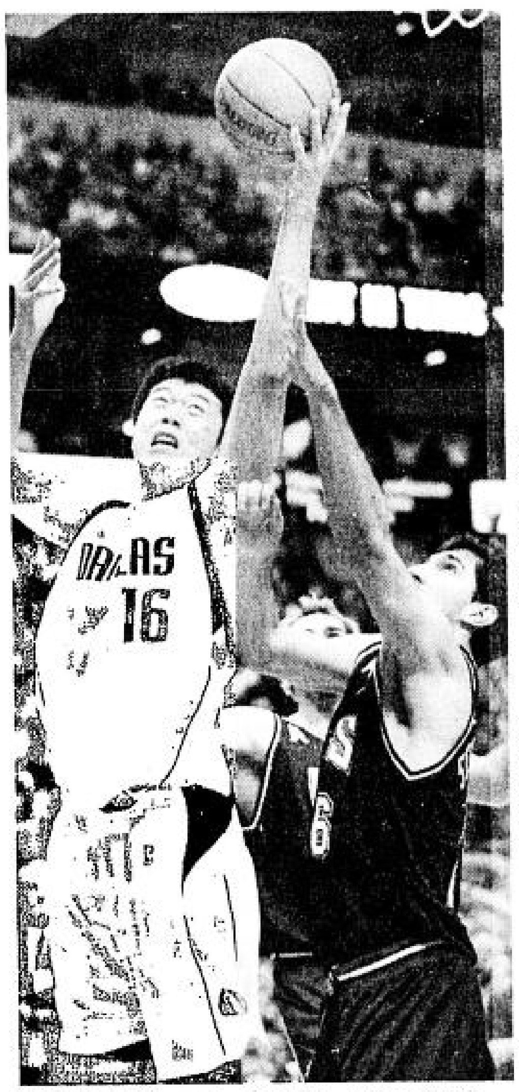
It also cited other offenses, such as Wang's refusal to play for China at the upcoming Asian Games.

"Strategy needs to be closely tied to a high level of collective training, to represent the national team needs a high level of patriotism, these must all be at the heart, the will and the happiness of such a person," it said.

"How can we let a person represent this nation if he does not see thiie needs of the collective training of his country and if he places his own interests above all else?," it added.

"Due to Wang Zhizhi's mistaken choices, in the end he will not represent China at the World Championships." The decision marks a turnaround by China's basketball authorities, who just last week appeared desperate to welcome the 2.15 metre (7ft 1in) star back to join his fellow "Walking Great Wall" centers Menk Batere and new NBA top draft pick Yao Ming.

Wang refused to return to China following the end of the NBA season, and has reportedly been on the verge of defecting due to the CBA's demands, although he has publicly denied any such intentions. *AFP*



WANG (left) getting fouled by fellow NBA player Peja Stojakovic of Sacramento Kings. FILE PHOTO

Pastor, Silverio, 2 others banner RP campaign

TEC'S Enzo Pastor, Tom ZED's Jojo Silverio, Denso JF3 Racing's Richard Joson and Shell's Pepon Marave will banner the Philippine campaign in the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge in Kuala Lumpur.

The state-of-the art Sepang F1 Circuit will be the venue of Rounds 9 and 10 of the races on Aug. 30-31.

Organized by Asian Formula 3 Corp. (AF3), Formula Racing Development (FRD) and the Malaysian Motor Sports Club, the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge will bring together some of the best Formula 3 and Formula Renault drivers in the region.

The 5.542-kilometer track, site of the Formula 1 early this year, features an impressive array of medium to high speed corners with a healthy sprinkling of straights in between, the longest of which is 928 meters.

BILLIARDS CHAMPIONS

Members of the Philippine women's billiards team pose with PWPC (Philippine Women Players on Cue) president Bong Coo (right, back row) and coach Boyet Asonto after winning the 8-ball team and 9-ball individual singles titles in the recent RP-Singapore Women's Cue Challenge at Robinsons Place Manila. The RP players include singles champion Nina Angeles, Iris Ranola, Rubilen Amit, Johanna Dee, Magda Say and Sheila dela Cruz.

Quinahan, Rodriguez star in adidas Streetball

HOST University of Visayas, behind the exceptional plays of towering center Joseph Quinahan and slam dunk king Jayford Rodriguez, routed defending champion Ateneo de Davao University, 17-8, to snatch the Seniors title in the recently-concluded National Finals of the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 at SM City-Cebu.

Playing before a huge hometown crowd, University of Visayas was never threatened in the game as the 6-foot-4 Quinahan towered over his opponents, tallying 5 points and 5 shotblocks to show the way for the Green Lancers. Rodriguez was unstoppable both inside and outside, topscoring for UV with 7 points.

Captain ball Harry Hipolito of Ateneo de Davao tried to bring his team back into the game but to no avail, as the Green Lancers just proved to be too strong for the Blue Knights.

Supporting Quinahan and Rodriguez were speedy guard Mark Ababon and Morsie Akad. Ex-PBA hotshot Elmer Cabahug called the shots for UV.

Relegated to second place were the Ateneo de Davao team of Hipolito, Alexander Lu, Allan Medina and Chester Chavez, with coach Pocholo Eligio.

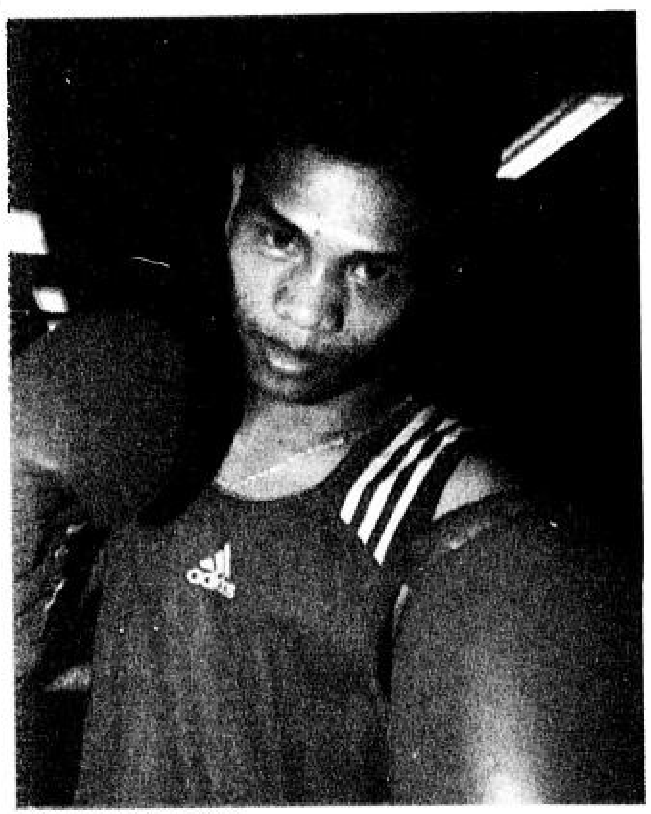
"You gotta give it to the boys. They worked hard for this win, this championship. They really deserved this. And we would like to thank all those who have supported us, especially our fellow Cebuanos who came to watch and cheer for our team. This victory is for you," said Cabahug.

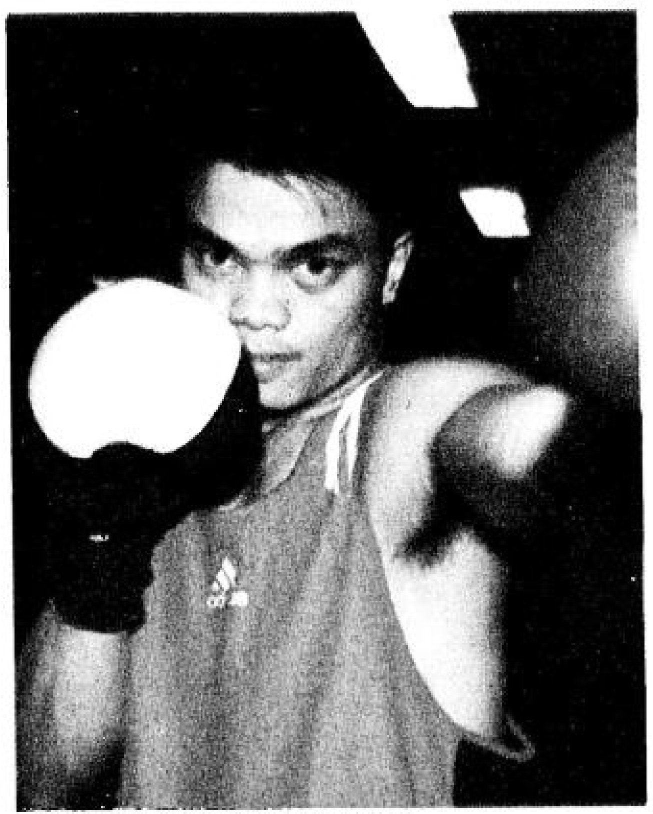
With the win, the UV Green Lancers, together with Women's champion University of Santo Tomas (UST), will don the country's tri-colors and represent Team Philippines to the adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2002, scheduled on Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Shanghai, China. Special guests to the event are NBA young stars and adidas athletes Antawn Jamison of the Golden State Warriors and Mike Miller of the Orlando Magic.

The adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 was also presented by Growee and WG&A Zip in cooperation with Gatorade, Absolute pure distilled drinking water, Zed, Taylormade Golf, Salomon, Magic 89.89 dwTM and 99.5 RT.

MANNY'S MEAN EIGHT

RP boxers out to unearth gold chest


PAYLA: Gold in Cuba.


IGUSQUIZA: Bronze in Hiroshima.

RARING TO FIGHT: Filipino boxers (from left) Roel Laguna, Romeo Brin and Harry Tañamor pose with their coaches (from left) Pat Gaspi, Nolito "Boy" Velasco and Gregorio Caliwan during a break in training. JESS YUSON

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

WITH the temperamental Cuban coach back in Havana, will the Filipino boxers finally unearth that old gold chest in Asian Games competition?

That is the question aching to be answered when Manny's Mean Eight go for the gold on Sept. 28 to Oct. 14 in Busan, South Korea.

LOPEZ

It will be remembered that from the 1996 Atlanta Olympiad to the 2000 Sydney Games, the country's boxers were coached by Cuban Raul Liranza Fernandez. The boxers wound up zero in both Olympiads.

Fernandez also handled the Filipino pugs who came home empty-handed from the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

After the Sydney disaster, Fernandez was fired. He was replaced by Gregorio Caliwan, who is now being assisted by Nolito Velasco and Pat Gaspi.

Before the Bangkok debacle, the Philippines won three gold medals in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad under Caliwan; they were the country's "only" medals.

"I'm not promising anything but based on the performances of my boys during the last two years under our own Filipino coaches, I think we have good, if not better, chances to win this time," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Manny's Mean Eight include light flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, bantamweight Ferdie Gamo, middleweight Maraon Golez, featherweight Roel Laguna, light welterweight Romeo Brin, light middleweight Christopher Camat and lightweight Anthony Igusquiza.

Sad memories

Since Sydney's sad memories in 2000 that sent the Filipino boxers home without a single medal, Lopez has been practically throwing his boys "to the sharks" with stints abroad to toughen them up.

"So far, so good," Lopez said. "We won some medals but the important thing is, we were able to expose the boys to world-class boxing once more under our very own Filipino coaches."

Recent gold medal winners abroad were Payla, Gamo and Golez.

Payla, the 22-year-old from Cagayan de Oro, won in Cuba. The 27-year-old Gamo, from Bago City, prevailed in Bosnia. Golez, at 21 the youngest among Manny's Mean Eight, prevailed in North Korea.

Transfer of technology

"Fernandez has had his day," said Lopez of the Cuban coach who was blamed for Arlan Lerio's defeat in Sydney that prevented Lerio from advancing to the medal column. "Remember, he coached Onyok Velasco to that silver victory in Atlanta."

Said Lopez: "With Fernandez around, we have completed the cycle of the so-called transfer of technology. He was good, but what he sorely lacked was his ability to adapt to the Filipino culture. His spartan regimen sometimes hurt the feelings of our boxers. Our Filipino coaches know how to deal with our boxers on a personal level. That's very important."

Added Lopez: "We are all set for Busan but the intangibles will always play a major role in this sport. The level of competition has increased by leaps and bounds. In Sydney, the Asian gold medalists came from Thailand, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The Asiad is no joke anymore as Asia, after the break-up of the Soviet Republics, has become the biggest boxing continent in the world."

The country's biggest Asiad haul for boxing came in 1954 in Manila—five out of the total 14 gold medals.

"But there were only a handful of countries (9) entered then," said Lopez.

There are 44 nations entered in the Games in Busan, South Korea's second largest city that sits princely by the sea.

Cockfight heavyweights ahead in Bates 7-Stag National Derby

COCKFIGHT heavyweights prevailed in the opening round of the Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby Tuesday night at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. The derby's sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

The championship round (4-stag) will be held at 6 p.m. today bannering some 64 fights. A total of 92 fights were held on Tuesday.

The frontrunners, with 3 points each, are former Ucap president Butch Macasaet (Greenwood), Jessie Viceo (San Rafael), Boy Marso (BM Bulalayaw), OPMI president Vic Yu (Oct. 15-17 Sir Vincent), Bobby Wong (Flyover), former World Slasher Cup champ Eddie Araneta (Liza Galore Placer), Rioichi Saito and Boy de Roca (BL Super Ninja), Lope Dorado of Cebu (Lusaran Star LTD Game Farm) and Pepito Ngo (Swing Fatman).

Next Tuesday and Thursday (Sept. 3 and 5), the Ratratan 7-Stag Derby of longtime partners Muroy Dolorico and Ramon Mansenares sizzles at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, please contact Mansenares at 0916-4960370 or 951-5078.

Meanwhile, hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, chair of the Ucap stag screening committee, announced yesterday that NCA-banded stags are now eligible to join in Ucap stagfests this year.

For other inquiries, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Manila int'l billiards tilt stakes $80,000

THE INTERNATIONAL Billiards Council expects to lure a bumper crop of local pool players when it holds the first President's Cup-International 9-Ball World Tour on Nov. 1 to 3 at the PICC Reception Hall.

IBC believes that its concept of holding a world-class pool championship here is more than enough to get the attention of pool fans nationwide.

Just like in any IBC World Tour leg, the President's Cup will be giving at least $80,000 in total prize money and at least $1,000 per player for his participation. Players also get to receive IBC Tour points. "Aside from taking billiards to the grassroots level by organizing local qualifying tournaments in certain cities, we also want to organize a tournament that allows us to see the world's best players battle our own pool greats and give unheralded players a chance to compete on the same level," said Edwin Reyes, IBC's Philippine representative.

Tournament format for the President's Cup calls for the 64 players to compete in several race-to-six games for the first two days of the event. The semifinals will pit the four survivors playing race-to-six games for three sets.

An organization which is sanctioned by the World Pool Billiards Association, IBC will hold local qualifying tournaments in Baguio City, Angeles City, Batangas, Legaspi, Cebu, Davao and in the National Capital Region next month which will lead up to the President's Cup.

Tac Team's Yunnan, China trip receives big boost

REIGNING national champion Spring Cooking Oil stepped up its preparation for the Yunnan (China) International Invitational basketball champion on Sept. 15-21 by nosing out the visiting Chinese-Taipei squad, 76-72, Tuesday night at the Lyceum gym.

Bobby Parks and Jeffrey Flowers starred for national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Oil team, which played minus former MBA star Romel Adducul, who was not able to see action due to conflict with his studies.

"It's a big boost to (our) boys' preparation," the Asian Games-bound champion Padilla said of Spring's victory. "I'm confident that with Romel (Adducul) playing for us, we will be able to put up a good performance in Yunnan.

Spring, backed by Alfa Laval Philippines, Morning Star Travel & Tours, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Philippine Sports Commission, Basketball Association of the Philippines and Aivandale (official outfitter), will leave for Yunnan on Sept. 9.

Coach Tito Palma's Cooking Oilmakers led 40-39 at halftime, but they repeatedly turned back the towering visitors' repeated rallies.

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Pasay hosts derby tomorrow

MORE than 50 fights await aficionados at the Pasay City Cockpit on Aug. 30 as partners Dick Ame and Danny Runner play hosts to a special 3-cock derby.

At stake in this one-day event is a cash prize of P150,000. Entry fee is P5,500. Interested parties may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for details.

Meanwhile, the first stagfest for 2002 at the Pasay Cockpit is on Sept. 6 as popular sportsman Tony Lasala, the PCCA Cocker of the Year co-winner, presents the big-time 4-stag derby.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla shot 562 points to top the standard pistol event in the 1992 National Open shooting championships at the Marines Range at Fort Bonifacio. Also today in 1994, Mike Potenciano timed 24 minutes, 24.79 seconds to capture the production class in the second round of the Subic Grand Prix.

Reminiscing the 'Dream Team'

WITH the World Basketball Championships (the "Worlds") in Indianapolis, USA just a day before blastoff, (Aug. 30-Sept. 9, Manila time), die-hard NBA fans everywhere are reminiscing about the USA team of 10 years ago that created a true global interest in the sport of basketball: the original Dream Team.

BIRD

The Dream Team played in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and featured the NBA's best and brightest at the time, led by Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, Scottie Pippen and Karl Malone. There were two "living legends" in just-retired Magic Johnson and soon-to-retire Larry Bird and one collegian (Christ Laettner), but the rest of the team, including John Stockton, Patrick Ewing, David Robinson, Clyde Drexler and Chris Mullin, were all current NBA superstars.

For the first time, Fiba, the worldwide governing body for basketball, allowed professional players to compete internationally and USA Basketball, reeling from successive defeats in the Pan American Games, the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the Goodwill Games where the US was represented by college all-stars, decided to send its very best to Barcelona. And basketball has never been the same since.

From the very start, the Dream Team created a worldwide stir. They were followed by TV cameras and mobbed by adoring fans everywhere they went. They were daily fixtures on the sports pages of every major newspaper in the world. And on the court, they were invincible, like "12 Dirty Harrys beating the bad guys," as one Spanish paper put it.

As long-time NBA reporter David Aldridge said in ESPN, "The Dreamers sold lots of NBA merchandise around the world, to be sure. But it was their play and their persona that had the lasting impact around the globe. You had to be there to see what their presence did to each and every team they faced, from their Beatles-like triumph at the Tournament of the Americas in Portland a month before the (Olympics) Games to their domination in Barcelona, where they won by an average margin of 43.8 points per rout. You had to see the world's other players literally pulling cameras out of their shorts when the games ended, so they could get pictures with Jordan and Bird. You had to hear the crowd yelling 'Majeek! Majeek!' to Earvin Johnson. It was the moment when basketball truly became global."

The NBA has now set four different teams to compete both in the Olympics and the quadrennial Worlds and have yet to lose a single game. This USA team to the 2002 Worlds will be the fifth featuring NBA stars. (Solar Entertainment will telecast all the games of Team USA on RPN-9 on a "same day" basis at 7-9 p.m. aside from a daily coverage on Solar Channel 17 on SkyCable/HomeCable.)

Aldridge notes that none of the others, despite having big stars, has matched the allure of the original Dream Team.

HEWITT lunges for a shot from Nicolas Coutelot of France. Hewitt won, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. REUTERS

Letran subdues Perpetual, keeps Final Four bid alive

By June Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
San Sebastian	10	3
St. Benilde	9	2
Phil. Christian U	9	4
Jose Rizal U	7	4
Letran	6	6
Mapua	5	7
Perpetual Help	1	11
San Beda	1	11

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.-SBC vs MIT
3:30 p.m.-CSB vs JRU

LETRAN College doused Perpetual's sizzling finishing kick to prevail, 70-64, and remain in the hunt for a Final Four slot in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Pint-sized Boyet Bautista shone with 16 points, five rebounds and three assists but it was the sparkling plays of Eric Rodriguez and Harold Sta. Cruz that dashed the Altas' bid for an upset.

Rodriguez, a 6-foot-4 pivotman who hails from Bataan, and the wide-bodied Sta. Cruz scored two decisive putbacks to make it 67-64 and led the Knights on forcing the Altas to commit costly errors in the dying moments.

The Knights followed up their 67-54 triumph over the San Beda Red Lions last week and marched to their sixth win in as many games.

Coach Louie Alas and his Knights have to sweep their remaining assignments against College of St. Benilde and Mapua to qualify for a playoff berth in the Final Four.

In the other seniors' game, Philippine Christian University downed defending champion San Sebastian College, 98-85, and inched closer to a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals.

Bernzon Franco topscored with 28 points and Loreto Soriano added 16 as the Dolphins prevented the Stags from earning the first twice-to-beat slot. Still, the Stags are on top of the heap on the strength of their 10-3 record.

The Altas, who portrayed their spoilers' role to the hilt by giving the Knights some scary moments, fell to 1-11 in a tie with the also-ran Red Lions at the bottom of the standings.

LETRAN 70—Bautista 18, Syhongpan 12, Rodriguez 12, Enrile 11, Aldave 8, Ebajay 3, Sta. Cruz 2, Ang 2, Aban 2, Santos 0, Reyes 0, Anabo 0.

UPHR 64—Botin 13, Tayer 13, Cosme 13, Cuenco 8, Javier 7, Hawkins 5, Ali-Ali 4, Balboa 1, Mulat 0, Aseron 0.

Quarters: 13-15; 32-27; 49-45; 70-64.

UE eyes repeat vs FEU; Tenorio out

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	10	0
UE	7	2
UST	6	4
Ateneo	4	5
FEU	4	5
UP	3	6
Adamson	3	7
NU	1	9

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
1:30 p.m.-NU vs Ateneo
3:30 p.m.-UE vs FEU

UNIVERSITY of the East, now tagged as the biggest stumbling block in La Salle's bid for the rare five-peat, seeks to continue its winning ways when it battles unpredictable Far Eastern University today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Riding high on a seven-game winning streak, the Red Warriors are hoping to repeat over the Tamaraws, who have won their last two games mainly because of the superb plays of controversial rookie Arwind Santos.

"Our priority is to keep La Salle within striking distance. Of course, we'll be very, very happy if we can get the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final 4," said UE coach Boysie Zamar.

La Salle remains unscathed with a 10-0 mark. The Archers, who meet the Warriors on Sept. 1, are chasing the 14-0 win-loss record set in 1993 by University of Santo Tomas.

The UE-FEU tussle is set at 3:30 p.m., after the 1:30 p.m. clash between tailender National University and Ateneo, which is aiming to snap a three-game losing streak to stay alive in the battle for a semis slot.

The Blue Eagles, however, will miss the services of playmaker L.A. Tenorio who will be out for four weeks after fracturing his hand during practice yesterday.

Ateneo is tied with FEU in fourth place with 4-5 card. After a miserable 2-5 start, the Tamaraws are now 4-5 after beating the Blue Eagles and the University of the Philippines Maroons, respectively.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1-1. Simply Great 2. Lucky Charm 3. Oh Diva
Race 2-1. Arrivederci 2. With Distinction 3. Ounce of Gold 4. Ultimate Goal 5. Heza Gunner
Race 3-1. What A Spell 2. Kay Gee Em Ey 3. Al Baraq 4. Maayo Kaayo
Race 4-1. Dimasupil 2. Rolex 3. Strong Element 4. Regal reality/Living Legend 5. Roppongi
Race 5-1. Destroyer 2. Double Header 3. Princess Emilyn 4. Modulo Queen
Race 6-1. Diktador 2. Queen Matawe 3. Fortius 4. Forevey Joyce 5. Pride of Mandaue
Race 7-1. Empowered 2. Andee's Ace 3. Southern Skies 4. Arbiter 5. Glamour Girl
Race 8-1. Dandansoy 2. Regal Mischief 3. James Joy 4. Silent Wind 5. Tatler Cover
Race 9-1. Morning After 2. Irish Diplomat 3. Dedicated 4. Pingas 5. Light Hearted 6. Pingas/Best Lover

Hewitt sees threats everywhere at Open

By Hal Bock

NEW YORK–Suggest to defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia that this U.S. Open is his to lose, that there are few challengers to the world's No. 1 player, and he just bristles.

"That's rubbish," he snapped after beginning his defense Tuesday with a routine 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Nicolas Coutelot of France.

So which players does Hewitt –winner of the last Grand Slam at Wimbledon–believe are legitimate threats to him?

"There's a lot of challengers," he said. "Most people know who they are."

Then he rattled off the names of the usual suspects–Andre Agassi and Russia's Marat Safin. Andy Roddick of America too. Also Germany's Tommy Haas, England's Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, and Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain.

Safin and Roddick held up their end of the bargain Tuesday, opening with wins.

Safin won a test of survival, outlasting Germany's Nicolas Kiefer 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4) in a five-set marathon that lasted 4 hours, 31 minutes and left both players exhausted and cramped.

Roddick, seeded No. 11 and three days from his 20th birthday, needed treatment for a blister on his right hand and defeated Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4.

Ferrero, No. 7, won two tiebreakers before subduing Australia's Wayne Arthurs 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5.

That said, Hewitt was in charge throughout in his first match, much the same way defending two-time women's champion Venus Williams and fellow American Jennifer Capriati were in their openers at the Open.

Williams and Capriati threw the tennis equivalent of perfect games, both cruising to 6-0, 6-0 victories. Williams blanked Mirjana Lucic of Croatia in 50 minutes and Capriati dismissed American Bethanie Mattek in 44. Meanwhile, Martina Hingis returned to Grand Slam play after an ankle surgery and beat American Marissa Irvin, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Williams, seeded No. 2, understands she is expected to cruise through the field to a third straight Grand Slam final with sister Serena.

"I realize I have the potential to be in the final," she said. *AP*

Go-for-Goal tourney 19th season tomorrow

NABUNTURAN, Compostela Valley–The 19th season of the nationwide Coke Go-for-Goal football tournament starts tomorrow with the staging of the Compostela Valley provincial eliminations at the Nabunturan National High School field here.

Eight teams will see action as this town, known for its gold deposits and mineral resources, provides the launching pad for another season of the longest-running, privately funded sports program for boys 16 years and under.

These are two-time Davao del Norte Compostela Valley champi on Nabunturan National High, Monkayo National High, Compostela National High, Manat National Comprehensive High, Mawab Nawab National High, Lorenzo Sarmiento National High, Maco National High and Maryknoll High of Nabunturan.

Gov. Jose Caballero Jr. will be guest of honor during the 2 p.m. opening ceremony.

Other special guests are Coca-Cola Export External Affairs Director JB Baylon, Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad, provincial sports chief Jose Reterba and Coke Go-for-Goal project director Jojo Rodriguez.

Chess book due Sept. 27

ONE of the most important Philippine chess books, The Next Wave: Rising Stars of Philippine Chess, will be introduced by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems Inc. during the 13th Philippine Bookfair on Sept. 7 at the Megatrade Hall, 5th Level Bldg. B, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Authored by Grandmaster Eugene Torre in collaboration with International Master Ronald Bancod and the editors of Chess Asia, The Next Wave: Rising Stars of Philippine Chess details the exploits of the country's top juniors in the 2001 World Youth Championships, and shows the challenge Philippine chessers face in competing with the world's top juniors, some of whom are grandmasters.

In this book, Torre provides in-depth annotations of the games to reveal the thought-processes and struggles involved, and approaches and risks taken by the young players. The representative games reveal their individuality and stylistic differences. They are clear and instructive models of how the game of chess should be played.

"This is not just an ordinary chess book," said Torre. "It aims to show readers, sports officials and chess patrons how much work is ahead of us to become world-beaters, even at an early age."

For additional information, contact the Acca with tel. 892-8759.

SPORTSWATCH

Cardinal's Cup gets going today

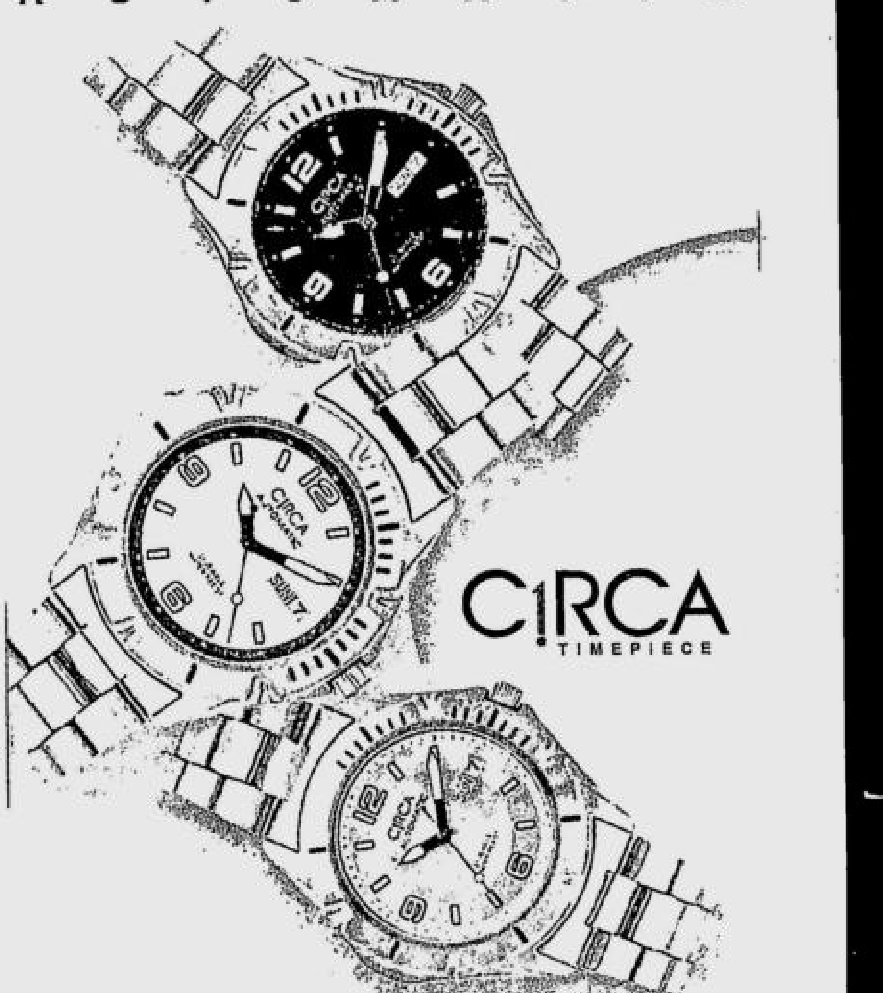
THE FIRST Cardinal's Cup will be played today with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo officially launching it by hitting the ceremonial drive at 7 a.m. today at the Wack Wack West Course. The President is also among the 244 players competing in the 18-hole event to raise funds for trained catechists to educate the youth in the fundamental tenets of our religion, inculcate them in Christian moral values and instill love of God and country. "The event will also serve as a celebration of His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin's birthday," Bishop Socrates Villegas, the tournament's organizing committee chair, said yesterday. The tournament will have a shot-gun start with the first group teeing off after the President's ceremonial drive and the other half beginning at noon.

La Union hosts youth chess

AVID woodpushers from north and central Luzon are expected to gather at the La Union Civic Center in Agoo for the fifth regional staging of the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Champion slated Aug. 31 to Sept. 1. Up for grabs are medals, a P28,000 cash purse, and slots in the November grand finals for top performers in the seven-round Swiss system regional elimination tournament for 20-under and 14-below non-master players. Additional prizes are given to the school most represented and the youngest participant, including the "Art A. Borjal Commemorative Award" for the best performer in the 10-under age bracket.

'Bato' golfest blasts off Aug. 31

THE BATONG Buhay Lodge No. 27 under the Most Worshipful Grand lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines will hold the First Master's Cup Golf Tournament and Fellowship on Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course in Quezon City. Tee-off time will be from 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. The proceeds of the tournament will be donated to a charitable institution as well as to the medical and dental civic action projects of the Lodge. The tournament is headed by Worshipful Master WB Norman C. Cases as the overall chair, assisted by Bro. Reinaldo A. Cedeno as tournament director. VW Lini L. Hernando is in charge of the technical committee, while VW Alex Costales chairs the solicitation committee.



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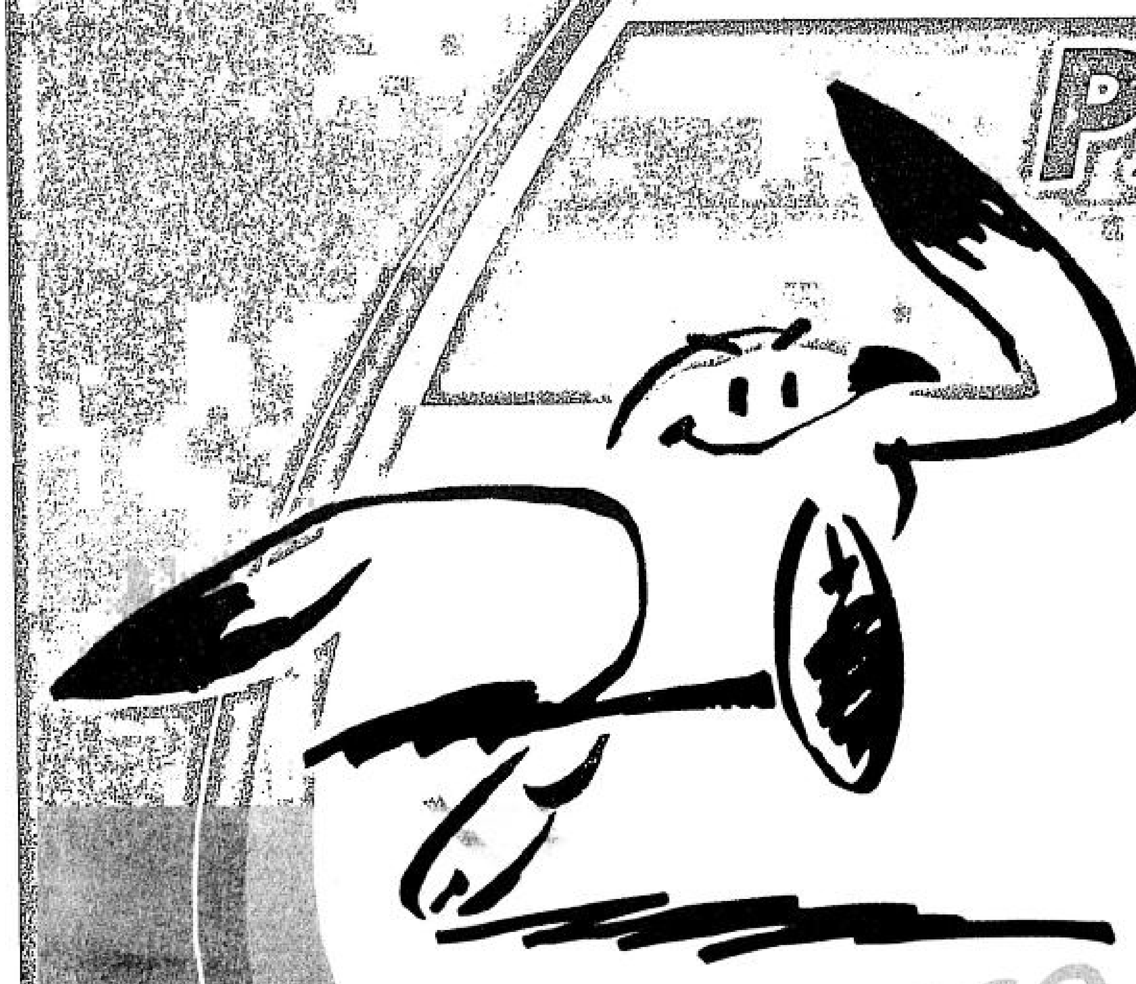

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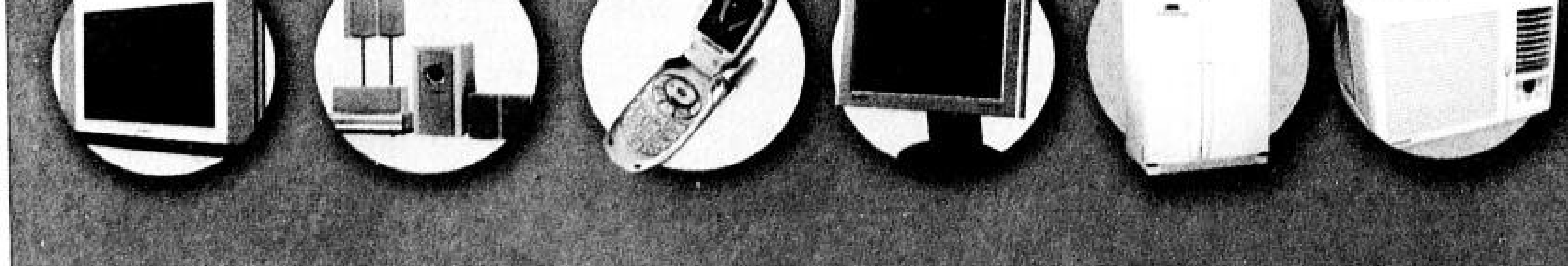

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

ATIENZA TO FERNANDO

A 'win-win' deal

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA city government is offering its "organized vending program" as a model that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority could use in putting an end to illegal sidewalk vending.

Mayor Lito Atienza said that areas in Manila such as Villabos, Carriedo, Hidalgo Streets in Quiapo, and Trece de Agosto Street in Paco used to be chock-full of dirty and disorganized vendors.

But now, he said, the vendors are orderly, the vending areas clean, and the vehicular traffic adapted to the vending system.

The first step, Atienza said, is to talk to the vendors themselves and explain what organized vending program is all about.

"We showed them the basic blueprint of their vending areas," he recounted. "Then we organized them into cooperatives and provided them with uniformly designed stalls."

Atienza said the program, which he termed a "win-win" solution, is being implemented by City Hall since 1999. He said he intends to purse it more aggressively in the coming years.

When organized, he said, vendors are able to police their own ranks and would have the added bonus of having a ready source of financing.

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A WIN-WIN /A22

Fernando welcomes Congress probe /A22

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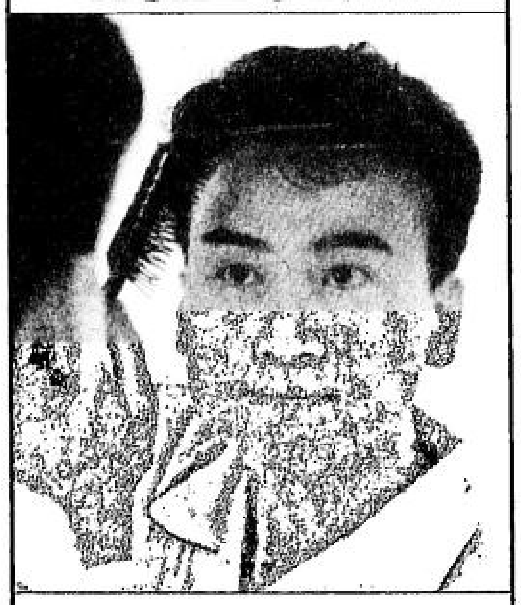

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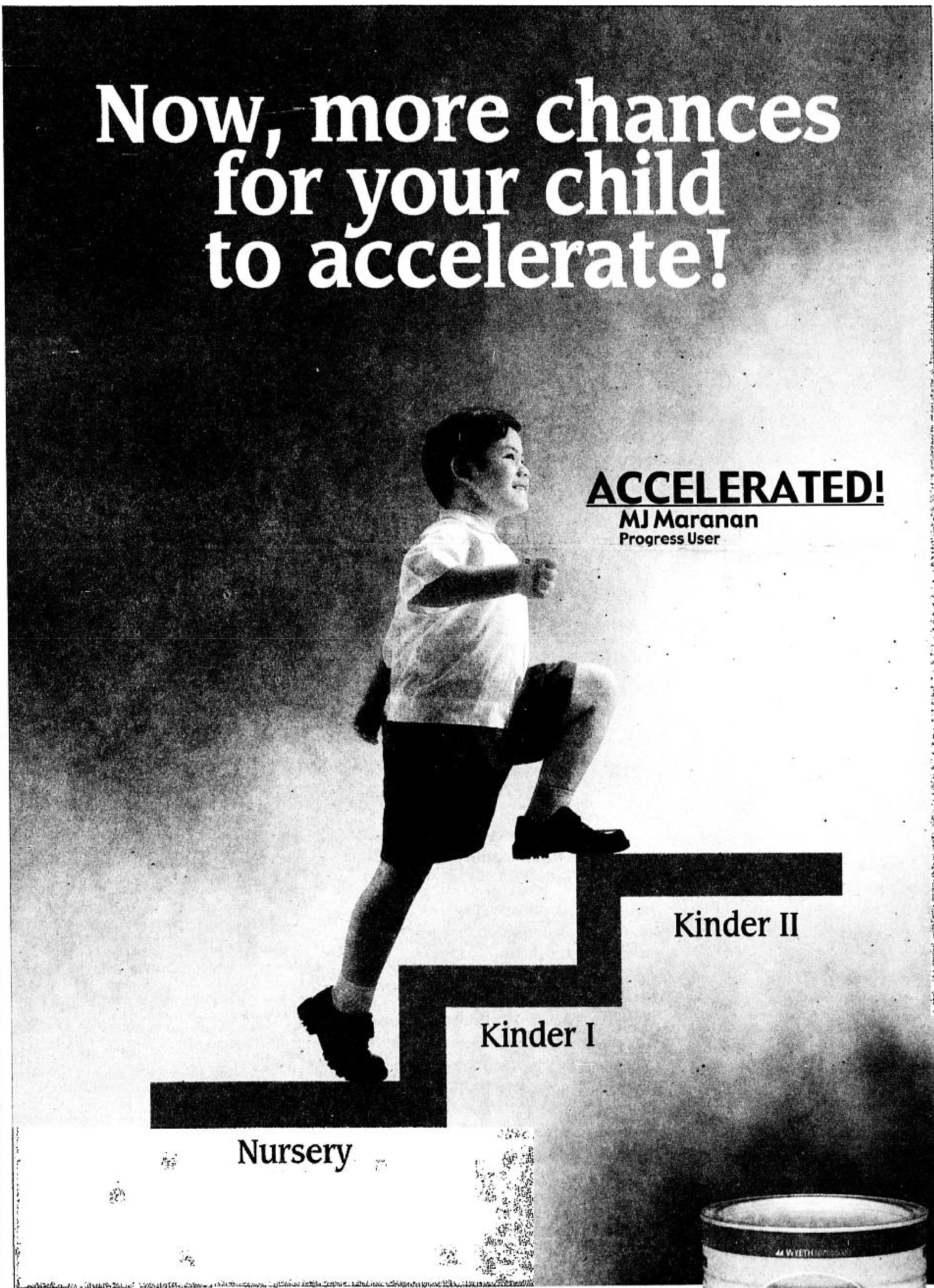

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What's Alma up to?

By Christian V. Esguerra

MORENO

AFTER breaking up with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, Alma Moreno set up a "non-governmental" organization" thereby fanning rumors she would shoot for the city's mayoral seat in 2004.

A source close to Moreno said yesterday that the actress launched the "Alma Moreno Para sa Mahihirap na Mamamayan" to continue the projects left hanging following the collapse of her 12-year marriage to Marquez last January.

The projects include free burial services and medical and dental missions for poor residents of Parañaque.

"The NGO will be seen as part of her preparation for the mayoral elections," the source said. "But right now, there's a 50-50 chance that she'll run."

The group, the source said, is backed by local women's groups and other private organizations that have supposedly been wooing the beleaguered actress to run for mayor.

A survey conducted last month by the Samahan ng Kababaihan sa Parañaque showed Moreno leading three other probable mayoral candidates, according to the source.

Former Mayor Pablo Olivarez was supposedly second, Vice Mayor Jun Bernabe second, and Councilor Anjo Yllana third.

But Olivarez, who was defeated by Marquez in last year's election, is reportedly wooing Moreno to be his runningmate in the 2004 mayoral race. Marquez is now serving his third and final term.

"The election is still very far and it's not her (Moreno) priority now," the source said. "She first wants to put things in order."

Mayor's suspension affirmed

By Tina Santos

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has upheld its decision to preventively suspend Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio and four other city officials for 90 days after it denied the motion for reconsideration filed by the embattled local chief executive.

In a resolution, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, the anti-graft court's 2nd Division chaired by Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval denied all the arguments presented by Vicencio's counsel in their bid to stop the three-month suspension order that the Sandiganbayan had promulgated last July 4.

It was learned that the latest order was immediately sent to the office of the Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. who, under the existing law, was designated to immediately carry out the preventive suspension of Vicencio.

The Inquirer tried to reach Vicencio for comment but was told that he was out of the office.

Cop's slay solved: Lover paid P100,000 to killers

By Alcuin Papa

IT HAD all the elements of a crime of passion: A jealous lover, a P100,000 contract to kill, and a policeman shot in cold blood.

Quezon City investigators yesterday cracked the case of a murdered policeman and announced that it was the victim's jealous lover who had the victim killed for P100,000.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza told the INQUIRER yesterday that Maryann Buenconsejo, upon discovering that her lover SPO3 Quintin Colon had taken in another woman, went on to hire hitmen to kill the lawman.

Buenconsejo, 38, a civilian personnel of the national police's Civil Security Group, had been having an affair with Colon, also assigned to the CSG, Jaraza said.

Buenconsejo reportedly got hurt and became angry when she learned that Colon had taken in another lover.

She decided to take matters into her hands and hired her provincemate, Harold Sinfuentes, to put together a team to kill Colon, Jaraza said.

In turn, Sinfuentes hired at least four men for the job. Jaraza said Buenconsejo made a downpayment of P50,000 to the group, which had been planning the murder since June. Sinfuentes, who is a member of the Philippine Coast Guard, even took a three-day leave from his job.

On Monday, the murder was carried out. As Colon was boarding a taxi in Murphy, Cubao, the group moved in and emptied their magazines on the victim, Jaraza said.

Sinfuentes' group could have gotten away with the murder, but witnesses were able to get the plate number of the suspects' getaway vehicle, a Tamaraw FX, he added.

Jaraza's investigators managed to trace the vehicle to Nicanor Murcal in Fairview, who told police that Sinfuentes' group rented his vehicle.

Fernando welcomes Congress probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday welcomed a congressional probe into sidewalk clearing operations which have been attacked by urban poor groups.

"Mabuti hangga't maaga, para malaman ko kung ang aking mga programa ay matitigilan o hindi (The probe better be conducted now so I would know whether or not my programs would be stopped)," Fernando said.

But he added all that he has been doing is based on the orders of the President.

"I am just doing my job. The President told me to do to Metro Manila what I had done for Marikina. Some sectors may have doubts, but that is the order of the President," he said reacting to claims that he has overstepped his mandate as MMDA chair.

Militant groups have earlier called on Congress to investigate Fernando for his alleged inhumane acts against sidewalk vendors.

Fernando has defended his actions, saying he is only implementing the law and nobody should be exempt from it. He also said he is not violating human rights.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself the Social Justice Society (SJS) filed a petition asking a Manila Regional Trial Court to declare whether or not Fernando's proposed plan to spray kerosene on vendors' wares is lawful and constitutional.

In their petition, the group cited the preamble of the constitution, the bill of rights and the civil code in questioning the legality of the plan.

"Public funds cannot be used for illegal or unconstitutional purposes," the petition read.

The petition further stated that the SJS has a right to question the MMDA chair's policies because the SJS is made up of taxpayers.

Around 20 former employees of BF Metal and members of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, a company owned by Fernando, trooped to the MMDA office yesterday to complain about the MMDA chair's alleged unfair labor practices, while the militant group Pamalakaya called for his ouster. The MMDA chair said that a court has declared the protesters' strike illegal.

Suicide note via text

By Philip Tubeza

THIRD-YEAR college student Effeus Cabrera, 22, hanged himself inside his boarding house in Malate, Manila before dawn yesterday after quarrelling with his girlfriend.

The victim left his "suicide note" in text message form in his cellular phone.

Detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section, said Cabrera, of 1813 San Pedro St. Malate, Manila and a Colegio de San Juan De Letran student, used a nylon cord in killing himself.

"I love Kalil too much. Mama sorry *di ko kaya lahat*," the suicide text message read.

Another message, apparently sent to Cabrera by a friend, read: "*Mahal ka pa rin ni Kalil*, no question about that, *pero patunayan mo sa kanya na karapat-dapat kang mahalin pa.*"

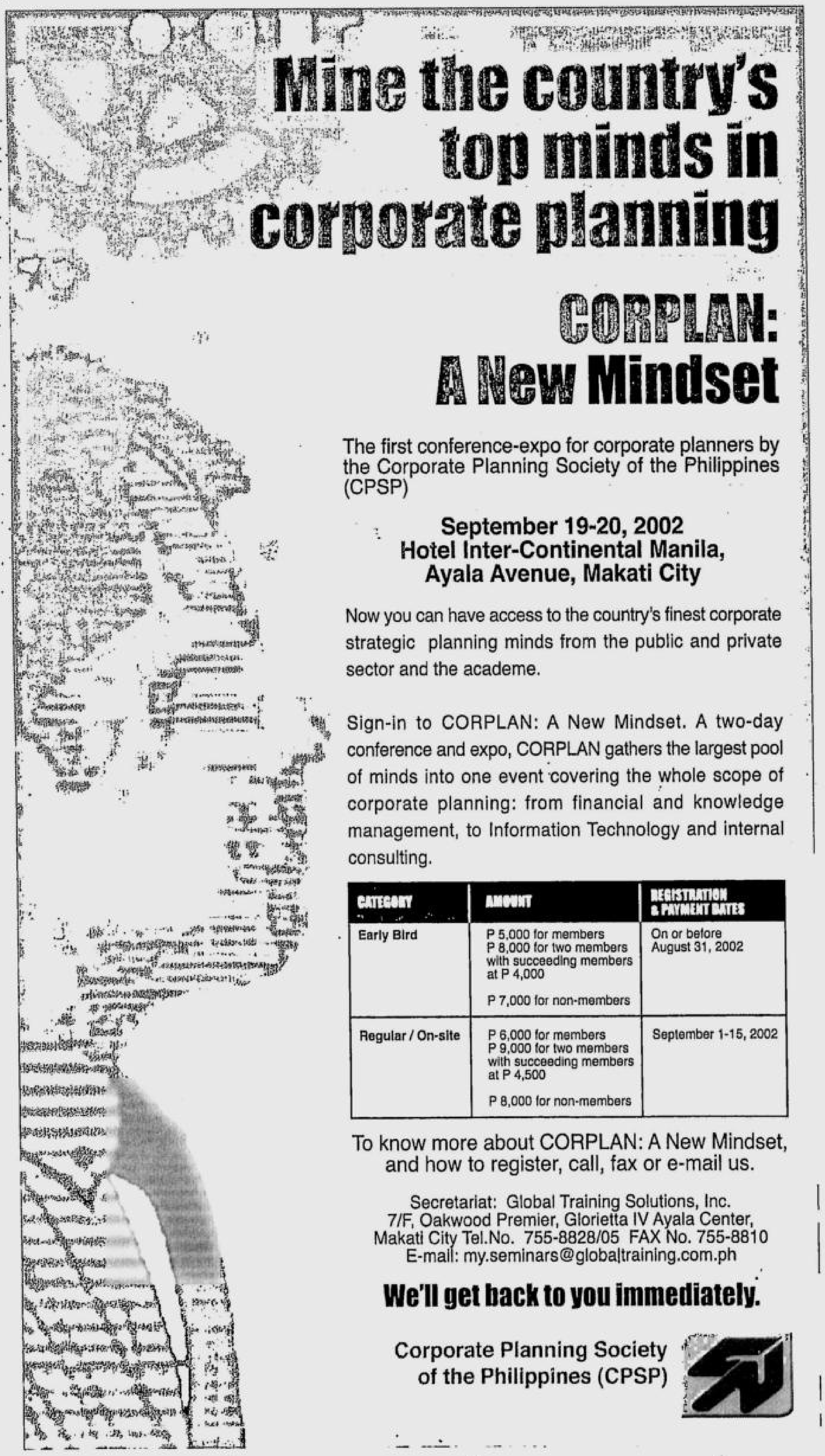
It added: "Ruining ur life will take Kalil from us. *Ayusin mong sarili mo.* LPS. *Bumalik ka*—Aileen."

But the victim did not take his friend's advice.

Cabrera's friend Jim Tolentino found him hanging from his boarding house's mezzanine at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

While no other marks were noticed on Cabrera's body, Villareal said he would still wait for the autopsy report before he considers the cases closed.

Villareal added that he would also check if it was Cabrera who really left the message in his cellphone.



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ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PENTAGON gang leader Faisal Marohombsar's bullet-riddled body was dumped into a wooden cart and photographed with President Macapagal-Arroyo viewing it with top police and military officials.

Some of my squeamish friends questioned the propriety of the President viewing the pockmarked body of one of the most notorious kidnappers in the country's annals of crime.

And why not? What's wrong with GMA being there at the battle scene after the smoke had cleared? She's the commander-in-chief of both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

***

The President, in being photographed viewing Marohombsar's body, sent a clear message to the members of the underworld: You're next!

And GMA was explicit. "You cannot forever evade the long arm of the law. Our law enforcers will get you one way or the other," she said, addressing criminals at large.

The President's presence at the scene also sent a message to law enforcers: she's watching over their shoulders.

***

The President thanked the media for not reporting the kidnapping of a 4-year-old girl and her nanny by Marohombsar's group. The girl and the nanny were rescued unharmed.

"It helped a lot that the media did not report the kidnapping while this was a live case; our military and police were able to operate well," she said.

But there was no need for the President to thank the media.

***

Media should never report a kidnapping while the victim is still in the custody of the kidnappers.

Media outlets in other countries don't do that. It's only in the Philippines where newspapers and TV news networks endanger the life of a kidnap victim by reporting the case while the victim is still in the hands of his captors.

A lot of kidnap victims were killed by their kidnappers because the incidents were reported in the media.

***

Back in the days when this columnist was a police reporter, no kidnapping incident ever got published or aired on radio and television while the case was ongoing.

Police reporters in my time reported the case only after the victim had been rescued. Even if we knew about the kidnapping, we cooperated with the police by keeping mum. We didn't tell even our respective editors about it until after the victim was rescued.

If journalists were respon sible then, why can't the present crop of reporters also be responsible?

***

Also, it's only in the Philippines where supposedly secret missions by the military are published.

Troop movements should never be reported in the media in order not to forewarn the enemy.

Last Sunday, the arrival of 30 soldiers belonging to the US-trained Light Reaction Company in Jolo was front-page stuff.

***

The elite troops were assigned to go after the Abu Sayyaf bandits who kidnapped some members of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu. Two of the victims were beheaded.

The sophisticated equipment that the US-trained soldiers brought with them-- like night-vision goggles and sniper rifles with laser scopes—were also published.

Only in the Philippines!

***

The US Army Delta Force that trained our Light Reaction Company is shrouded in secrecy.

All Delta Force members are faceless soldiers. Even their own families don't know they belong to the elite of the elite among the US troops. Their families know they are soldiers, that's all.

When these elite troops are sent on a mission abroad, only their immediate superiors know. Their families don't.

***

A mission undertaken by special troops should be top-secret.

The success of that mission depends on its secrecy.

The superiors of the Light Reaction Company should know that.

Or are they too stupid to know?

A 'win-win' deal

From page A21

government for the stalls and another P20 for their respective cooperatives," he said. "Then they have a ready credit line from their cooperatives to source their additional capital needs without having to pay usurious intest rates.".

The mayor however explained that organizing vendors "was not a walk in the park." It required patience and in some cases, a strong determination to instill discipline and order, he said.

In most cases, half of those vending in the four areas were "steeped in anarchy and resisted any attempt to instill order." The full extent of the law had to be applied to such kind of vendors, he said.

"But there was also the other half composed of legitimate vendors who really wanted to earn a decent living and we wanted to give them all the opportunity to do so," he said.

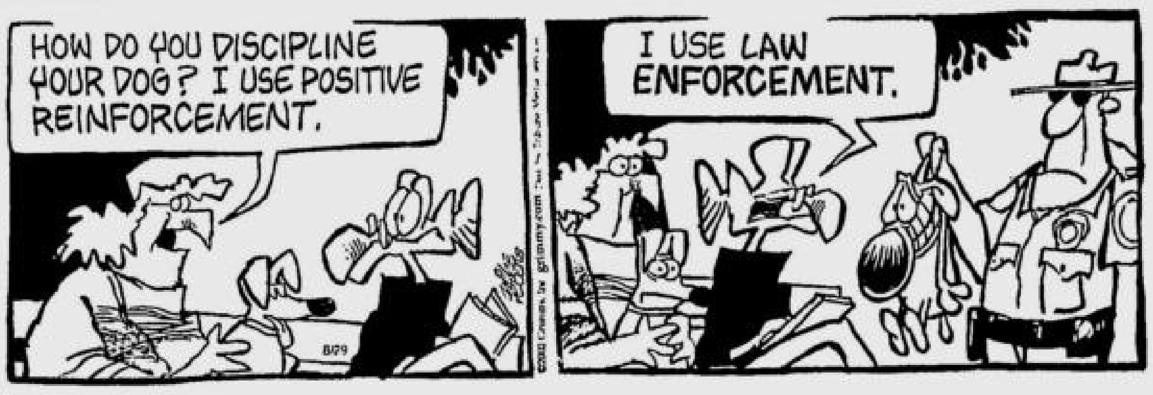
Atienza, citing the curent state of the economy, said it is incumbent on the government to give vendors a chance to have a decent source of livelihood without sacrificing order and discipline.

The mayor said his administration shares the objective of MMDA chair Bayani Fernando in clearing streets and sidewalks of obstructions.

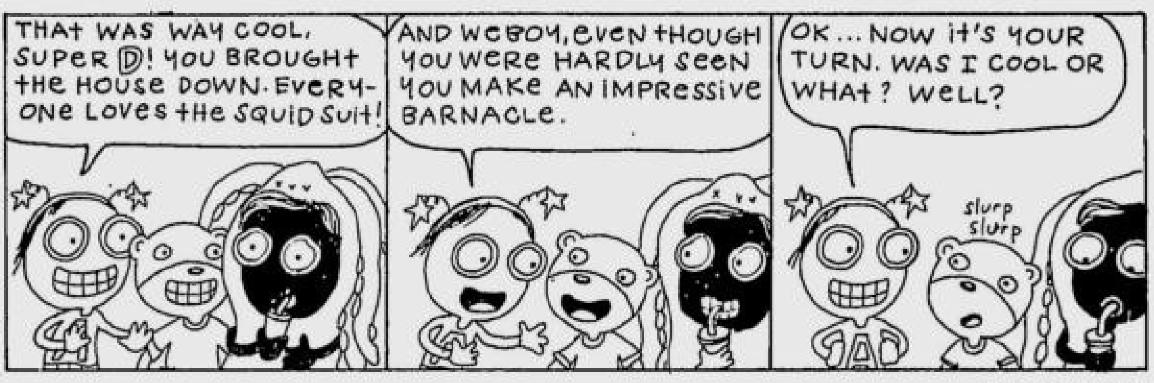
But Atienza suggested that Fernando "should do this in a manner that takes into consideration the vendors' legitimate needs."

"It doesn't have to be an 'either-or' situation," he stressed.

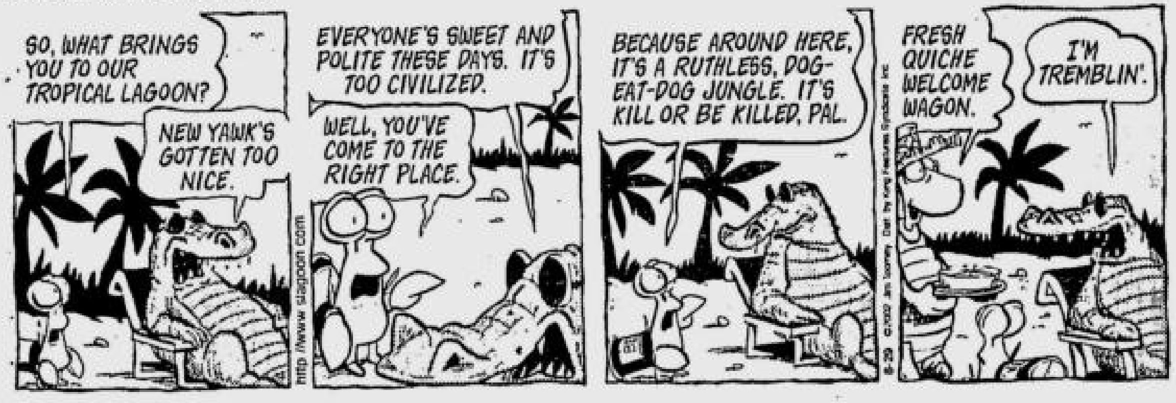
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


HOW DO YOU DISCIPLINE YOUR DOG? I USE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT.
8/29
I USE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

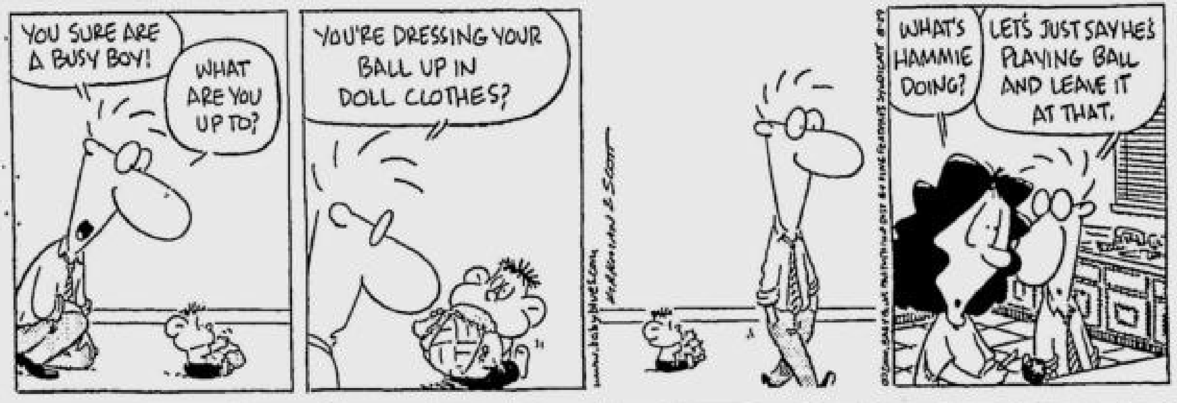
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THAT WAS WAY COOL, SUPER D! YOU BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN. EVERYONE LOVES THE SQUID SUIT!
AND WEBOY, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE HARDLY SEEN YOU MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE BARNACLE.
OK... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. WAS I COOL OR WHAT? WELL?
slurp slurp

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR TROPICAL LAGOON?
NEW YAWK'S GOTTEN TOO NICE.
http://www.slagoon.com
EVERYONE'S SWEET AND POLITE THESE DAYS. IT'S TOO CIVILIZED.
WELL, YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
BECAUSE AROUND HERE, IT'S A RUTHLESS, DOG-EAT-DOG JUNGLE. IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED, PAL.
FRESH QUICHE WELCOME WAGON.
I'M TREMBLIN'.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU SURE ARE A BUSY BOY!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
YOU'RE DRESSING YOUR BALL UP IN DOLL CLOTHES?
www.babyblues.com
WHAT'S HAMMIE DOING?
LET'S JUST SAY HE'S PLAYING BALL AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Jackson, Rebecca De Mornay, Robin Leach, Elliot Gould

Happy Birthday: You will be overly sensitive. This can lead to trouble if you let it affect your work or your productivity. Put things in perspective and don't let other people influence your decisions. It's been a long time since you've followed your heart. Make this year a turning point in life and have no regrets. Your numbers are 5, 13, 27, 33, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may prefer to do things today that will enhance your popularity or your looks. Don't take anyone too seriously. Keep things light and be entertaining.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop yourself if you complain or get whiny today. The moon is passing through your sign and it isn't likely you'll be thinking clearly. Take a couple of days to reassess your situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Making changes to your home will make you feel better. An older relative may be a bit of a burden today. Be caring and take the time to help.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't rely on anyone but yourself today and you won't be disappointed. The work you do for a cause you believe in will be appreciated. Don't expect praise right now, but eventually your efforts will be recognized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Personal matters may affect what you are trying to accomplish today. If you take on too much, you'll find yourself falling behind and having to answer to someone who could make your life miserable. Don't promise to do the impossible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have greater opportunity to converse with people who can offer you valuable information. A change of lifestyle is in order. It's time you started doing things you enjoy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have added discipline today and some terrific ideas that should catch on quickly. You may want to make some financial adjustments. Poor information could lead to a bad deal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional matters will surface if you are jealous or overbearing. Don't let any personal issues affect your productivity. Problems with your home can arise if you hire contractors. Avoid sensitive topics.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can benefit from the changes occurring at work. Be professional and in time you will get the recognition and the advancement you deserve. Your attitude will be the determining factor today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make positive changes with very little effort today; all you will need is the desire. This is a great day to look at all your options regarding work and money. You can make changes that will be more to your liking.

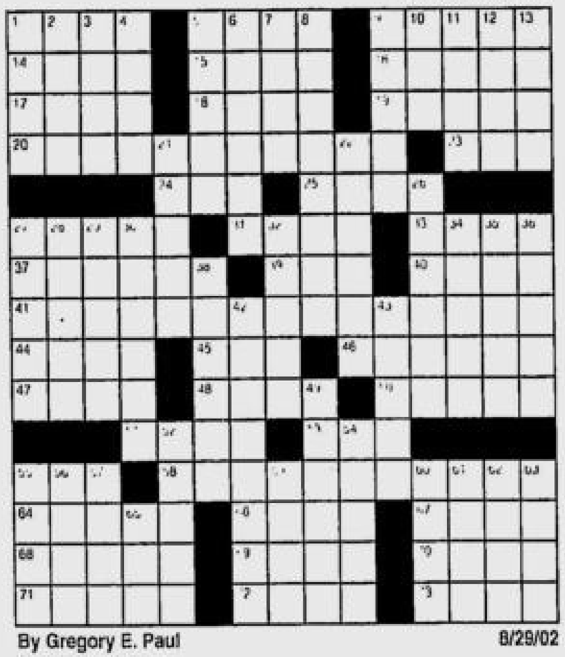
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be bombarded with complaints today, but that's only because everyone knows you are excellent when it comes to finding solutions. Don't let emotional matters stress you out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): New friendships or love relationships will develop if you get involved in groups fighting for a worthy cause. Your creative way of thinking will attract interesting people.

Birthday Baby: You will be tough, stubborn and get your own way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

8/29/02

ACROSS
1 Freshwater fish
5 Writer Oz
9 Yours, long ago
14 "SportsCenter" stn.
15 Opera star
16 Like Cheerios
17 Needle case
18 Lenin Peak's range
19 Work, as dough
20 Betty Grable film
23 1/2 of a marriage
24 Oxford fellow
25 "__ Here to Eternity"
27 Garlic-basil sauce
31 Melange
33 Cantor and Lupino
37 Huns' leader
39 Adherent's suffix
40 Gun maker
41 Gordon Lightfoot hit
44 Self-images
45 Gerundial ending
46 Gives instructions to
47 Actress Moore
48 Dundee dagger
50 Coeur d'__, ID
51 Eur. defense assn.
53 Seaman's org.
55 __ Na Na
58 Caldwell novel
64 No-man's land
66 Actress Kedrova
67 Run without moving
68 French water-bottler
69 Writer Bagnold
70 High time?
71 Doorstop
72 Lather
73 Earl __ tea

DOWN
1 Borscht ingredient
2 City near Turin
3 Created like a web
4 Clipped piece
5 Hersey's bell town
6 City in Italia
7 Track shape
8 Marlin's cousin
9 Godzilla's target
10 Harrison in "Star Wars"
11 News bit
12 Get closer
13 Finishes
21 First chess champion Anderssen
22 Amatory
26 Legrand or Fokine
27 Set speed for
28 French floor
29 Sen. Thurmond
30 Makes a connection
32 Loyal subject
34 Use a divining rod
35 Prost or Delon
36 "Funny Girl" composer
38 Noble Brit
42 Dignifies
43 Fertilizer type
49 Geometry man
52 Do penance
54 Lots
55 Killed violently
56 Bees' milieu
57 In the thick of
59 Indigenous Japanese
60 Wedding token
61 Aroma
62 __ vera
63 Repudiate
65 Sack

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	C	T	■	C	E	D	A	R	■	A	C	T	A
A	D	A	R	■	A	D	O	B	E	■	C	L	O	Y
S	A	L	U	B	R	I	O	U	S	■	R	I	F	E
S	M	U	■	O	V	E	R	T	E	D	I	O	U	S
■	■	M	O	D	E	S	■	■	R	U	M	■	■	■
C	O	N	V	E	Y	■	H	A	V	I	O	L	I	S
A	R	I	E	S	■	S	O	L	E	■	N	I	N	A
P	O	O	R	■	C	L	U	E	D	■	I	C	E	S
O	N	U	S	■	H	A	T	E	■	B	O	E	R	S
N	O	S	E	D	I	V	E	■	B	O	U	N	T	Y
■	■	■	R	O	C	■	■	F	R	O	S	T	■	■
E	F	F	I	C	A	C	I	O	U	S	■	I	O	U
B	R	I	O	■	N	U	T	R	I	T	I	O	U	S
B	E	A	U	■	E	J	E	C	T	■	R	U	S	E
S	E	T	S	■	S	O	R	E	S	■	S	S	T	S

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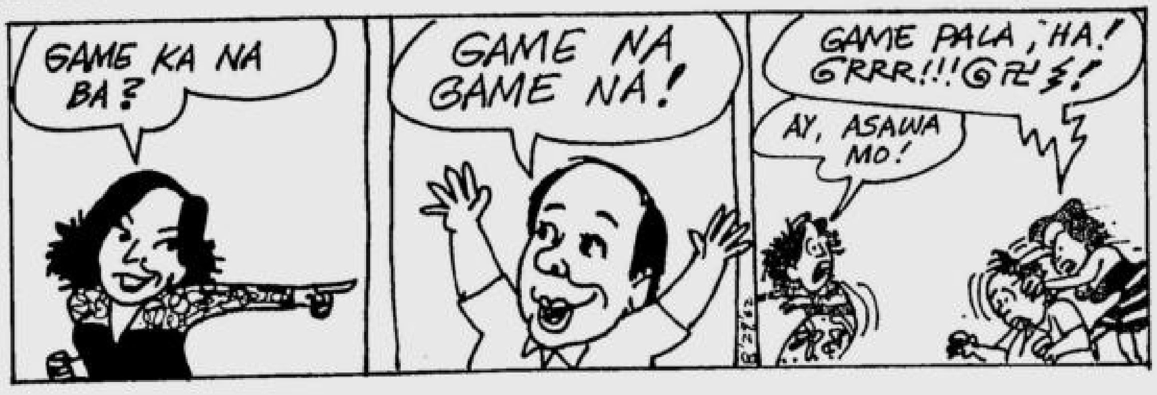
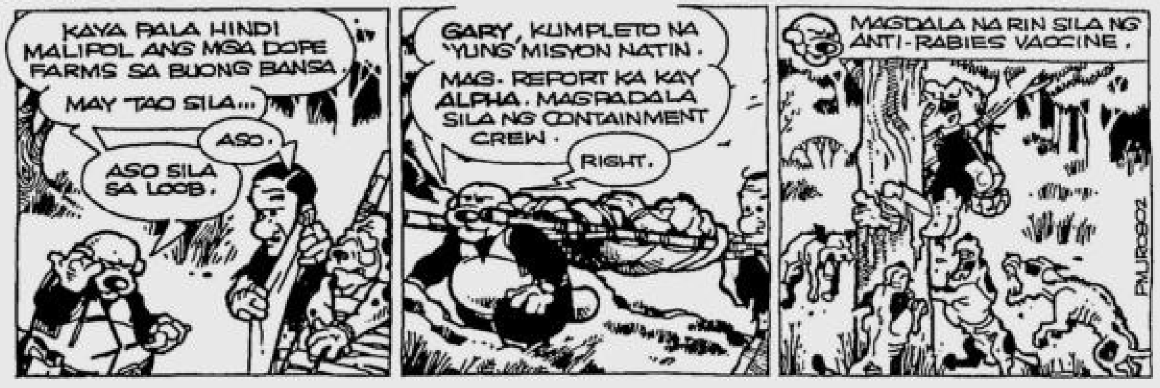
8/29/02

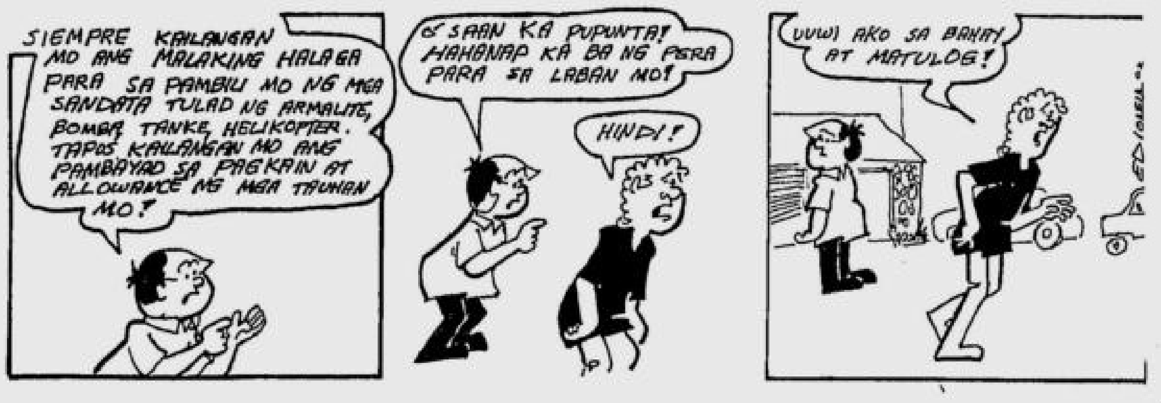
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GAME KA NA BA?
GAME NA GAME NA!
GAME PALA, HA! GRRR!!!@#$!
AY, ASAWA MO!

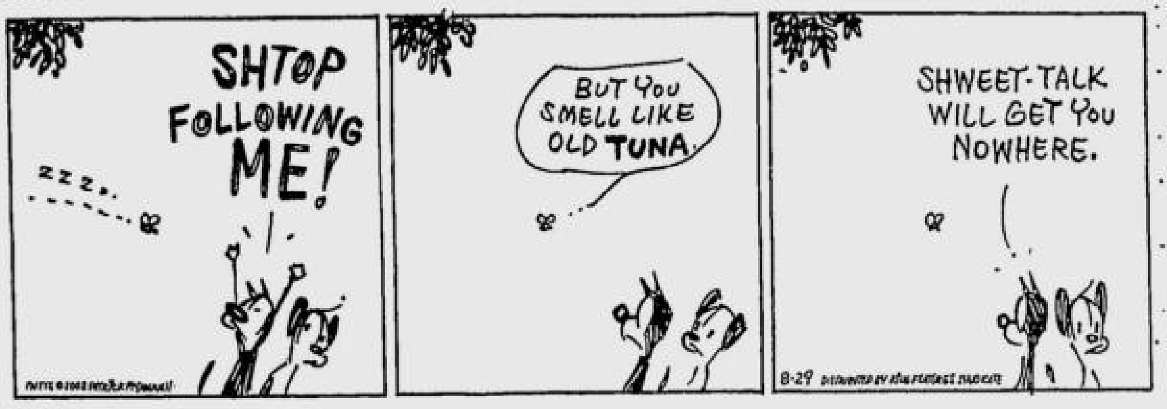
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA PALA HINDI MALIPOL ANG MGA DOPE FARMS SA BUONG BANSA.
MAY TAO SILA...
ASO.
ASO SILA SA LOOB.
GARY, KUMPLETO NA 'YUNG MISYON NATIN.
MAG-REPORT KA KAY ALPHA. MAGPADALA SILA NG CONTAINMENT CREW.
RIGHT.
MAGDALA NA RIN SILA NG ANTI-RABIES VACCINE.
PMJR0802

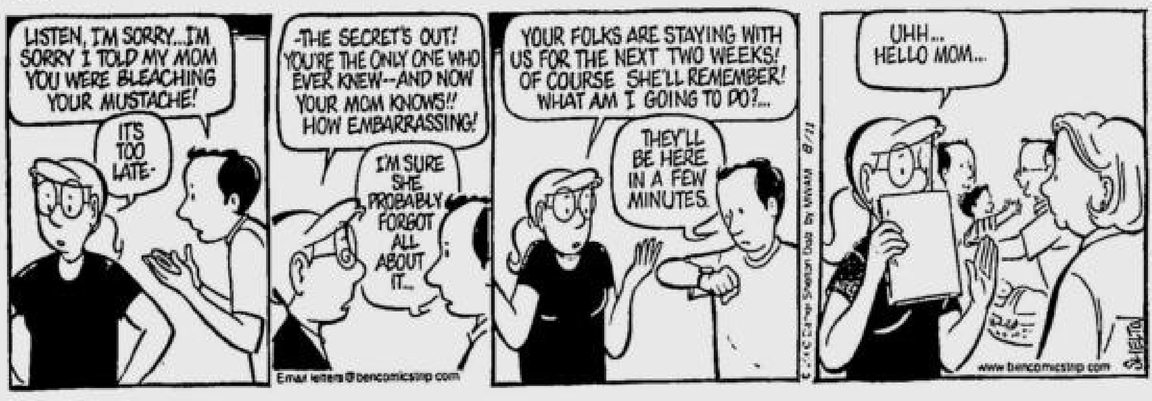
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIEMPRE KAILANGAN MO ANG MALAKING HALAGA PARA SA PAMBILI MO NG MGA SANDATA TULAD NG ARMALITE, BOMBA, TANKE, HELIKOPTER. TAPOS KAILANGAN MO ANG PAMBAYAD SA PAGKAIN AT ALLOWANCE NG MGA TAUHAN MO?
O SAAN KA PUPUNTA? HAHANAP KA BA NG PERA PARA SA LABAN MO?
HINDI!
UUWI AKO SA BAHAY AT MATULOG!

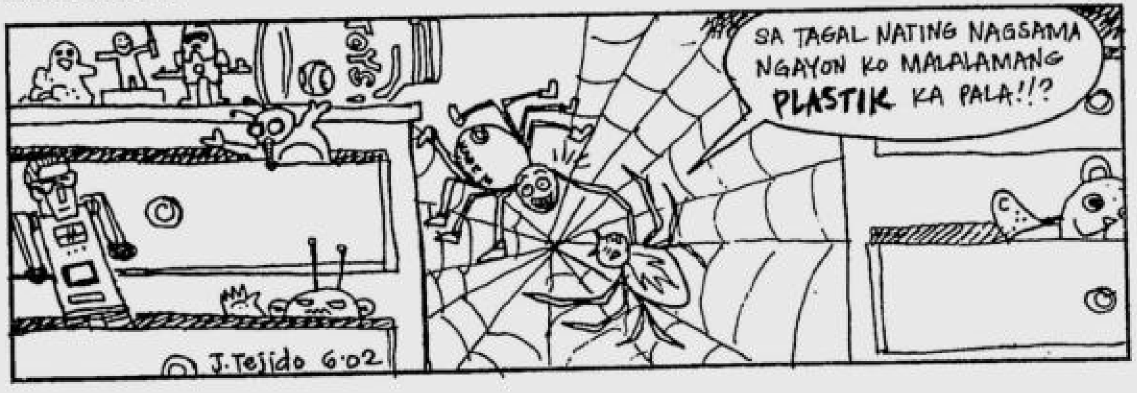
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ZZZ..
SHTOP FOLLOWING ME!
BUT YOU SMELL LIKE OLD TUNA.
SHWEET-TALK WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.
8-29

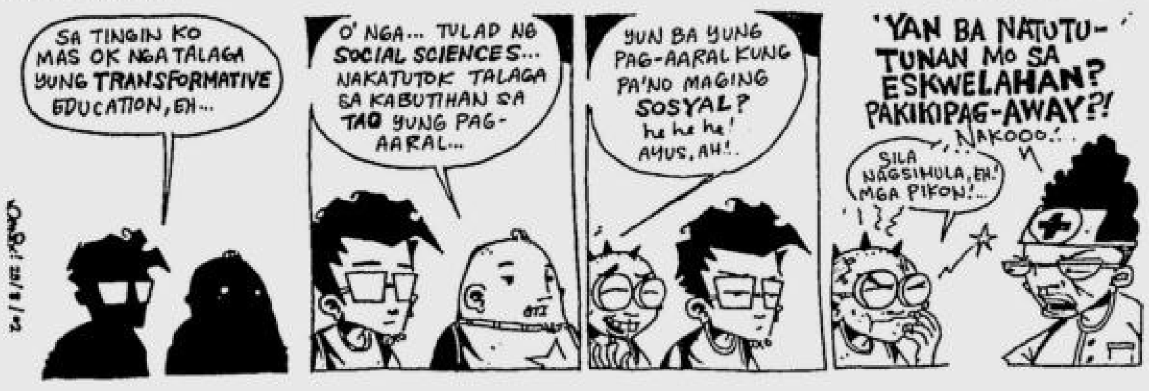
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


LISTEN, I'M SORRY...I'M SORRY I TOLD MY MOM YOU WERE BLEACHING YOUR MUSTACHE!
IT'S TOO LATE-
-THE SECRET'S OUT! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER KNEW--AND NOW YOUR MOM KNOWS!! HOW EMBARRASSING!
I'M SURE SHE PROBABLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT...
Email letters@bencomicstrip.com
YOUR FOLKS ARE STAYING WITH US FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS! OF COURSE SHE'LL REMEMBER! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?...
THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES.
UHH... HELLO MOM...
www.bencomicstrip.com

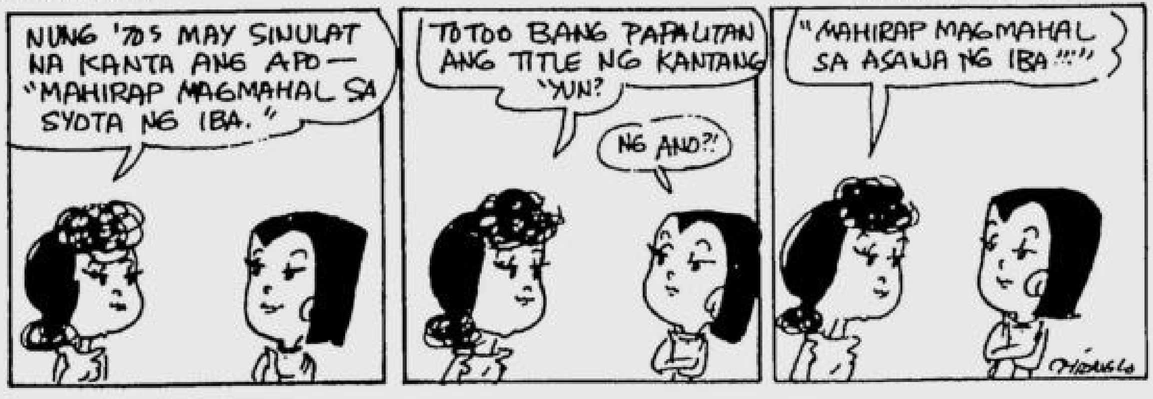
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOYS
SA TAGAL NATING NAGSAMA NGAYON KO MALALAMANG PLASTIK KA PALA!!?
© J. Tejido 6·02

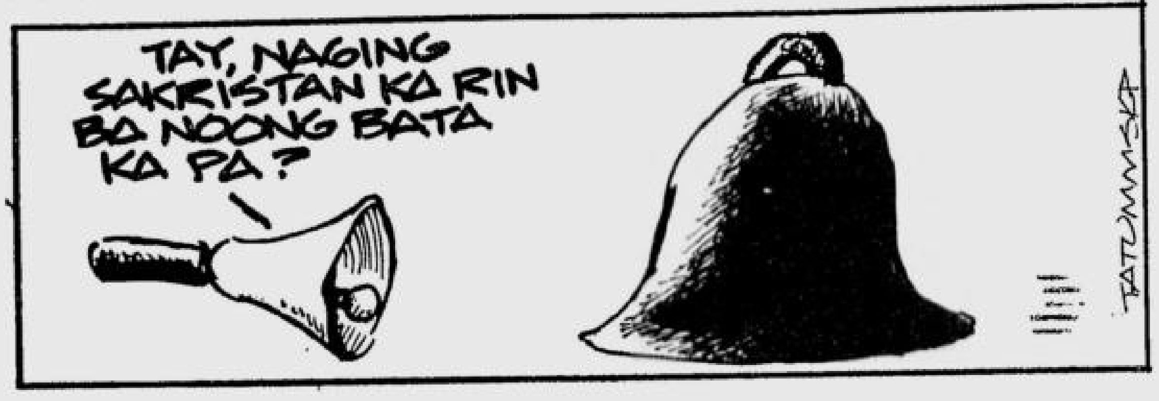
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SA TINGIN KO MAS OK NGA TALAGA YUNG TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION, EH...
O' NGA... TULAD NG SOCIAL SCIENCES... NAKATUTOK TALAGA SA KABUTIHAN SA TAO YUNG PAG-AARAL...
YUN BA YUNG PAG-AARAL KUNG PA'NO MAGING SOSYAL? he he he! AYUS, AH!
'YAN BA NATUTUTUNAN MO SA ESKWELAHAN? PAKIKIPAG-AWAY?!
NAKOOO..!
SILA NAGSIMULA, EH! MGA PIKON!..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUNG '70S MAY SINULAT NA KANTA ANG APO— "MAHIRAP MAGMAHAL SA SYOTA NG IBA."
TOTOO BANG PAPALITAN ANG TITLE NG KANTANG 'YUN?
NG ANO?!
"MAHIRAP MAGMAHAL SA ASAWA NG IBA!!!"
Chionglo

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TAY, NAGING SAKRISTAN KA RIN BA NOONG BATA KA PA?
TATUMMSK

THE BEST OF CINEMANILA 2002

Cinema 1

August 29 (Thursday)

10:30	Hana-Bi
1:30	Seafood
3:30	The Carriers are Waiting
6:30	Ring 1
8:30	Ring 2
10:30	Ring 0

August 30 (Friday)

10:30	Kikujiro
1:30	Following
3:30	The Navigators
6:30	Bashu, The Little Stranger
8:30	No Man's Land
10:30	Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner

August 31 (Saturday)

10:30	Quitting
1:30	Leaf On A Pillow
3:30	The Cyclist
6:30	Bread And Tulips
8:30	No Man's Land
11:30	Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner

Cinema 2

August 29 (Thursday)

10:30	Following
1:30	A City Of Sadness
4:30	Dog Days
6:30	Fastfood, Fast Women
8:30	What Time Is It There?
10:30	A Pornographic Affair

August 30 (Friday)

10:30	Leaf on A Pillow
1:30	The Cyclist
3:30	The Carriers Are Waiting
6:30	A Pornographic Affair
8:30	Bread And Tulips
10:30	What Time Is It There?

August 31 (Saturday)

10:30	Dog Days
1:30	The Carriers Are Waiting
3:30	Calmness
6:30	Peony Pavillion
8:30	Following
10:30	A Pornographic Affair

INQUIRER DHL THX NETASIA MEGA UNIVERSE NEXTEL Office of the President

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	DERAILED
2 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
4 GOLD (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SIGNS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SIGNS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	AUSTIN POWER
8	GAMITAN
9	JOLOGS
10	JOLOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3

(Pasay) [illegible]
TEL. 551 63 87

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	SIGNS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SIGNS
5	DERAILED

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	SIGNS
5	AUSTIN POWER
6	DERAILED
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

AUTIN POWER

SCREENING HOURS (WED, THURS)
5:50PM, 7:50PM, 9:50PM

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	HIGH CRIMES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1	JOLOGS
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SIGNS
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4	TRIPLE X

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	DERAILED
4	GAMITAN
5	AUTIN POWER-3
6	JOLOGS
7 (DTS)	SPIRIT
8 (SDDS)	SIGNS
9 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3	JOLOGS
4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
7 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8	SEX & ZEN
9	BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
6 (DTS)	JOLOGS
7 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
8	AUSTIN POWER-3

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	JOLOGS
2	AUTIN POWER-3
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	JOLOGS

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	JOLOGS

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX & ZEN
Lords	HIYAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3	TRIPLE X

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
3	AUSTIN POWER
4	JOLOGS
5	GAMITAN

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUSTIN POWER
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	DERAILED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	SIGNS
2	DERAILED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 (DTS)	INSOMNIA

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SIGNS
2	SEX & ZEN
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	GAMITAN
5	SPIRIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	LILO & STITCH
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	JOLOGS
4	SAGAD

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	GAMITAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SWEETEST THING
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	TRIPLE X

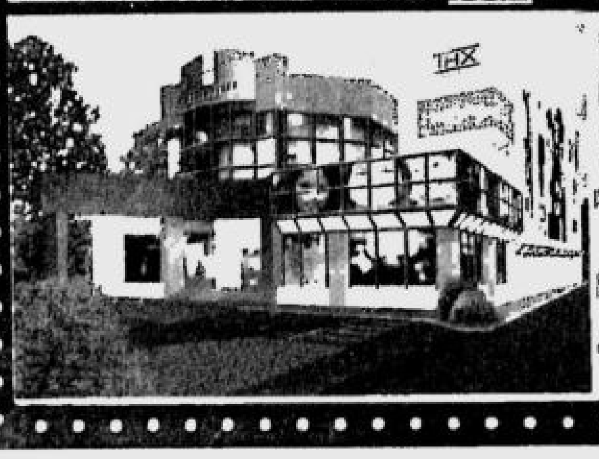
Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	INSOMNIA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



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8	UNFAITHFUL

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1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
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6	GAMITAN
7	DERAILED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	AUSTIN POWERS...
10	JOLOGS

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1	JOLOGS
2	SPIRIT
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY
11	INSOMNIA
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	SIGNS
2	SWEETEST THING
3	LILO & STITCH
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	INSOMNIA
6	TRIPLE X
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8	UNFAITHFUL
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11	DERAILED
12	JOLOGS

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1	TRIPLE X
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4	TRIPLE X
5	UNFAITHFUL
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8	GAMITAN
9	JOLOGS
10	AUSTIN POWERS
11	JOLOGS
12	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	DERAILED
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	AUSTIN POWERS
6	SIGNS
7	SPIRIT
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL

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1	SPIRIT
2	DERAILED
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4	SIGNS
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN
10	UNFAITHFUL

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	SPIRIT
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	JOLOGS
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	CLOSED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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1	SIGNS
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	SPIRIT
4	GAMITAN
5	TRIPLE X
6	JOLOGS

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1	GAMITAN
2	SIGNS
3	TRIPLE X
4	JOLOGS

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1	SIGNS
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	AUSTIN POWERS

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1	TRIPLE X
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3	GAMITAN
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	SPIRIT

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9	UNFAITHFUL
10	LILO & STITCH

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3	GAMITAN
4	DERAILED
5	JOLOGS
6	SPIRIT
7	AUSTIN POWERS

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3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

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2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
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6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

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2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	GAMITAN
6	JOLOGS

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2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	THE THIRD WHEEL

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M. Night Shyamalan sees the 'Sign$'

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

Q&A

M. NIGHT Shyamalan has seen the signs, and they all look like dollar signs.

Early this month, the director's latest film, "Signs," about a countryside family facing a possible alien invasion after mysterious crop circles appear in their cornfield, posted a roaring $60 million opening weekend in the US. That makes it one of the year's top debuts, putting the film in the company of such blockbusters as "Spider-man" and "Star Wars Episode II." It is also a personal best for the wunderkind 32-year-old director.

Then again, Shyamalan knows a thing or two about dollar signs. In 1999, his sleeper horror film, "The Sixth Sense," sneaked up on audiences. By the end of its theatrical run, it had scared up more than $650 million worldwide and waltzed away with six Oscar nominations. It stands as the 12th biggest film of all time.

Disney paid Shyamalan an unprecedented $10 million to write and direct his next film, "Unbreakable."

Now, as Shyamalan gears up for the international release of "Signs," he hopes the film's stateside success will translate into a *ka-ching!* of currencies abroad. After all, Shyamalan not only faces enormous expectations but a ghost of his own as well: living up to the success of "The Sixth Sense." "Unbreakable," released in 2000, was seen as a disappointment compared to its predecessor. Although the film was a top money-earner, it left audiences stumped by its esoteric superhero-meets-the-real-world premise.

On a sweltering summer afternoon last month in New York City, the boyish-looking, Philadelphia-based director sat down with this writer to talk about "Signs," the pressure he feels after "Unbreakable" and just how he manages to get those great performances from kids.

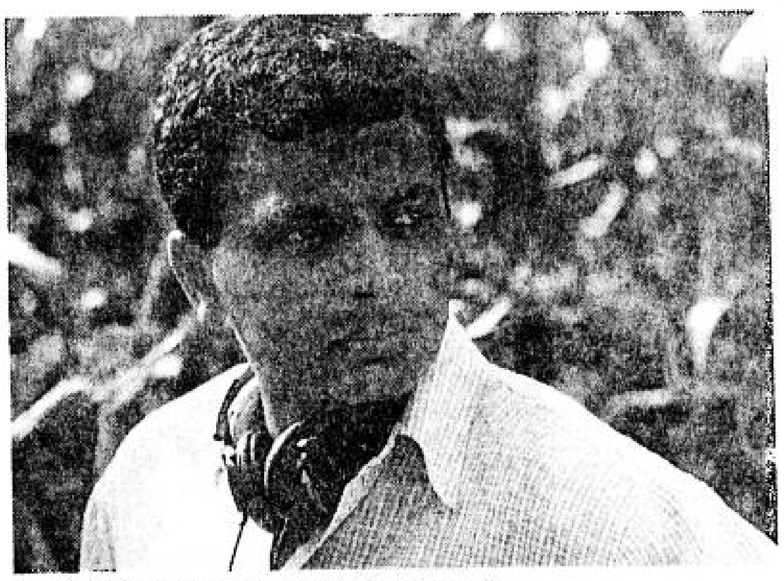
There are enormous expectations for "Signs," given the phenomenal box office success of "The Sixth Sense" and the rather lackluster performance of "Unbreakable." What kind of pressure are you feeling as this film hits theaters?

There's no way around it. Failure will bring pressure, success will bring pressure. It's difficult. Now, as this is about to open, I'm feeling that pressure again. There's the pressure to compete with "Austin Powers 3" and "Men in Black 2" and all those movies. In my little naive mind, you have to do things the right way, and if you walk the right path, you'll get rewarded for it. But maybe you don't get rewarded. Maybe "Austin Powers 3" will make a bazillion dollars, and we'll make one dollar. It's pressure, it's all about pressure.

"Signs" blew away all naysayers when it raked in over $60 million dollars its opening weekend in the US. Do you now feel vindicated after all the drubbing "Unbreakable" received when people compared it, rather unfavorably, to "The Sixth Sense"?

When we screened "Signs" for the first time in public, it was a huge [audience] turnout; we could take only a fraction of them [into the theater]. And they went nuts when my name came up . . . and we had to quiet them down for the movie to start. Mel Gibson's name? They were like "Aaahhh." It felt like such a redemption for me from the "Unbreakable" process.

Your films try to put a fresh spin on conventional, even tired, supernatural or fantastic themes like ghosts and superheroes. Why the fascination with crop circles this time around?


SHYAMALAN. In another Hitchcockian spin

I was abducted by aliens when I was 11 [laughs]. It was a great subject that embodied a kind of insinuation. When I see this, it insinuates something else. I love that. It was a great way to have a movie about aliens with dignity, not having the eerie hand coming out here [contorting his hand into a menacing claw], but saying with intelligence and mystery and eeriness that this insinuates that. The whole thing is, for me, a metaphor for [Mel Gibson's character's] faith in dealing with his demons. The demons come down, and they come down to his house and actually stand in front of him and embody his worst fears, which is that his loved ones will be taken away. He had to face that.

The house in "Signs" looks uncannily like the one in "Psycho." The opening music sounds a lot like Bernard Herrmann's slashing violins for "Psycho"'s famous shower scene. And ominous, familiar-looking birds circle the cornfield. Were the Hitchcockian analogies intentional?

There were a couple of things that were inadvertent. When we built the house . . . that was going more towards the classic haunted house towering behind you. And so that wasn't trying to be the "Psycho" thing. The birds were something that happened. We were shooting the backyard scene, and the birds went crazy right above us. So everybody just turned their cameras.

The Bernard Herrmann thing—I told the composer to score the script. And so he went and came back with three minutes of music, and it was like, "Oh my god, this is so Bernard Hermann." And I said, you know what? It was meant to be. So let's just do it.

In another Hitchcockian spin, you also act in your movies. In "Signs," you actually play a pivotal character. Too many coincidences, perhaps?

I never thought about that Hitchcock thing at all because that's a gag—him showing up—and I don't want to be a gag when I show up in my movies. I want it to help, to be more original in voice, more specific, more personal to me and hopefully more diverse, culturally.

Your films usually involve children, and—in the case of "The Sixth Sense"—you wrangled an Oscar-nominated performance out of then-11-year-old Haley Joel Osment. How do you command these strong performances from kids?

Cast correctly, that's the most important thing. You cast kids not to be actors; you cast them to be themselves. You get really close, and then you talk straight to them. You don't talk down to them. If you talk down to them, then you've lost all connection.

Mel Gibson's infamous for pulling practical jokes on his crew. So give me the scoop: Did he play the prankster this time?

He didn't joke with me because I think he was afraid he would offend me. He's very fun. He played Scrabble with all the crew members and joked. He thinks he's a chiropractor, so he gives everybody back adjustments and things like that.

So what supernatural, occult or extra-terrestrial story are you working on next?

I've got nothing lined up. I could do some wedding videos,

SHYAMALAN with Mel Gibson, whom the director describes as "very fun."

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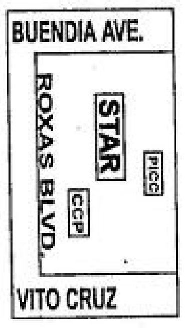

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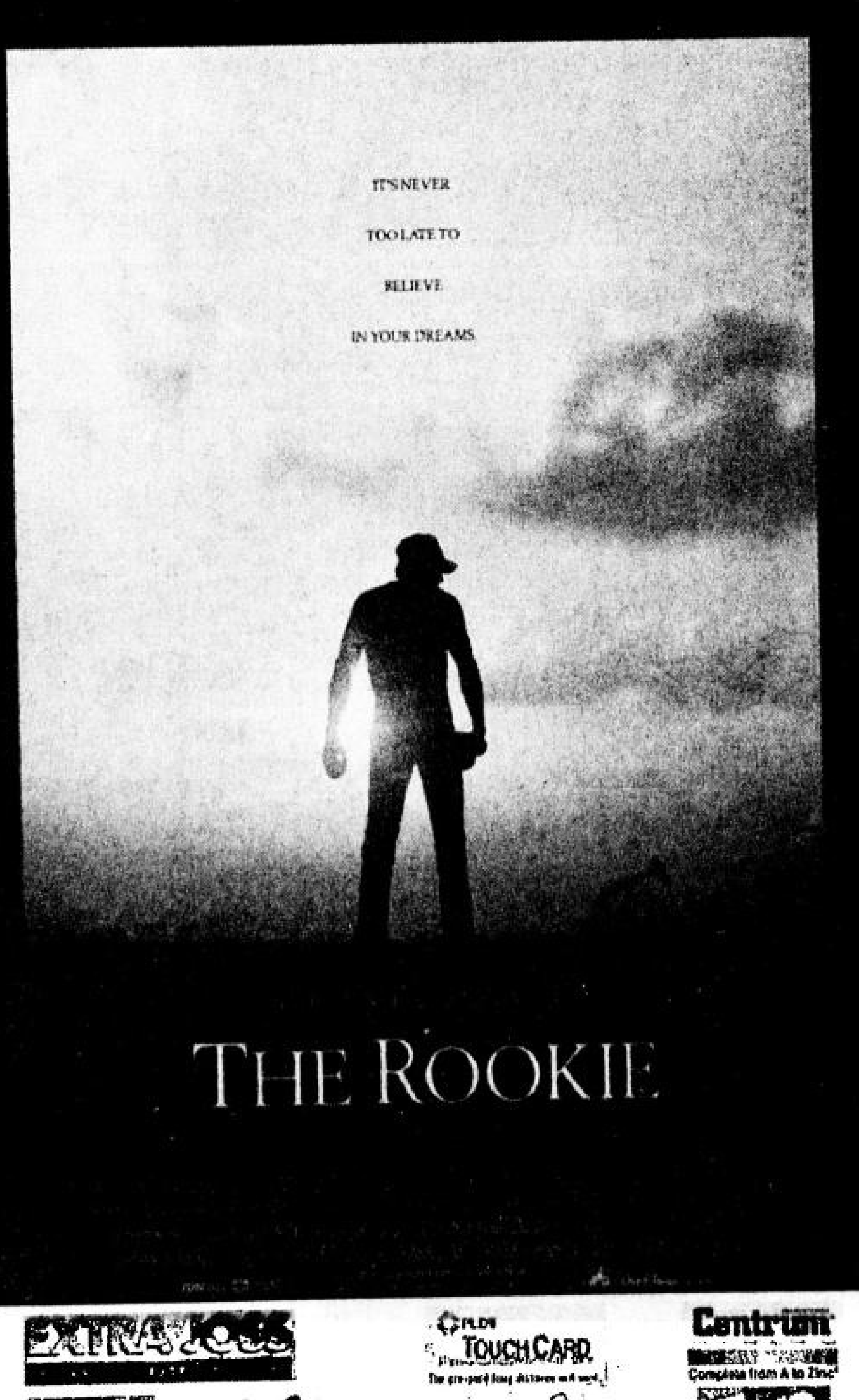

OPENS SEPTEMBER 4 IN CINEMAS

Albert Martinez unhappy over 'narrow-minded people'

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

I GOT a call from a distraught **Albert Martinez** the day the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) decided to ban his latest starrer, "Laman." He was inviting me to watch the special preview.

I told him in jest, "It's dangerous for unattached women like me to watch such movies. I might end up looking for someone new to keep me warm or hot."

I just wanted to lighten the mood because I know how affected Albert was by the ban. He sighed. "*Sayang naman.* I don't know why there are still narrow-minded people in the industry. They should look at the film in its entirety and not just single out some steamy love scenes."

As the title ("Laman") suggests, let's just hope the MTRCB will look closely at the contents so they wont make out-of-context pronouncements.

Dyan and Jackie

I HAD a great time at the opening of California Pizza Kitchen on Tomas Morato in Quezon City, with my cool buddy **Cito Beltran.**

The nice thing about our friendship is that Cito and I can go from goofy to profound. He may strike you as a serious guy on television but he has a tender side, especially when talk drifts to our born-again Christian beliefs.

We were invited to CPK by our mutual friend **Dyan Castillejo**, who's a brand new-mom. She gave birth last July 25 to **Matthew Castillejo Garcia** at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa.

Has motherhood made Dyan stay put in one place where she's not hitting balls, swimming, hiking, diving etc?

Dyan beamed. "Motherhood itself is so much like a sport. There's so much movement, but you can't train for it the way you master a sport. I didn't know what to expect. I'm still groping but I love every minute of it.

"I enjoy breast-feeding my boy. I think moms should record every single moment they spend with their baby so when the kid grows up he will see on tape all the hardships his mom has gone through in raising him. Especially when he starts to rebel. That should make him start to behave.

"When I watch my baby Matthew sleeping, I can't help but wonder if he'll give me headaches someday. If only he could be a baby forever."

Soon, Dyan's funky sister **Jackie** joined our table and it turned into a riot all night. Jackie kept ribbing Dyan to loosen her jacket and show some skin, while Dyan was pleading with Jackie to button up her sexy top, which was loosely fastened by only one button.

The fab sisters are poles apart and their only common denominator is their fondness for each other. Cito and I felt like we had a large dose of laughing gas from listening to Dyan and Jackie's bantering. The Castillejo sisters ought to have a talk show of their own.

The CPK party was well-attended. I sighted **Miguel Zubiri** with his new VJ/model girlfriend, my "immortal friend"—Cinderella and Esprit's bright boy **Richie Santos, Chavit Singson** in a huddle with **Mark Jimenez** , amazing couple **Barbara Perez** and **Robert Arevalo**, to name a few.

Just like CPK's pizza, the guests were a good combination with everything on it!

Blue to blow into town

BLUE is made up of London-based lads **Duncan James, Anthony Costa, Lee Ryan** and **Simon Webbe**. Their debut album, "All Rise," sold 137,000 copies on its first week of release. Cuts from the album such as "Too Close" and "If You Come Back" hit silver in the UK and in the Philippines.

With a very distinct pop sound that's a bit more mature than your usual teen boy band fare, the music of Blue is something you wouldn't mind being caught listening to.

"We only have one agenda," says Duncan. "We want to perform decent songs with tough grooves and soulful vocals. We want to be respected for being a quality act and not for being something else."

EMI Phil. has released "Blue: All Rise Special Asian Edition" containing a bonus audio-video CD which features five remixes plus an acoustic version of their smash hit "All Rise" and a new song, "Love R.I.P." Buyers of the album will get a free mini booklet with solo wallet-size photos of Blue.

Catch Blue on its first Philippine promo tour on Sept. 1 and 2. Let them rock Manila!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

The Calesa Man

From page A28

Rudy says Calesa at one point tried having male solo singers but the audience seems to always prefer female singers.

Rudy also helped hone the music of other singers like Dulce, Malu Barry, Isay Alvarez, Chiqui Pineda, Toni Daya, Judith Banal, Lani Misalucha, Anna Fegi and Marissa Sanchez.

"I've worked practically with all the best female singers in the country," he says.

Achievement award

He also played the piano on the now-defunct TV program "A Little Night of Music." And he earned a special achievement award from the Aliw Awards.

Starting this month, the Calesa singers pay tribute to Rudy in a series of one-night shows.

Malu Barry started the countdown to Rudy's 35th anniversary with a show on Aug. 28. Malu had the longest stint as a Calesa regular performer in the 1990s.

"He's my mentor," Malu says of Rudy. "He is the only pianist who made me cry. He is strict but he trains singers really well."

The Aug. 28 show was Malu's gift to Rudy. "It's my way of showing gratitude to the person who has made me who I am now," she says.

Verni will make a nostalgic return to Calesa as its featured performer in September. In October it's going to be Anna Fegi, who started her singing career at Calesa in 1998.

"It was my first job and my only source of income," Anna says.

Training ground

Anna says Calesa was a very good training ground for her. "Rudy is so hard to please and is very picky," she says. "He corrects my diction and even my posture."

In a Calesa show in November, singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez will recall her humble beginnings at the bar. "*Tito* Rudy gave me the break I needed," Marissa says.

She describes Rudy as a very strict and conservative man. "I am the only one who can joke with him about anything and get away with it," she says.

Isay Alvarez will be the featured performer in December, Judith Banal in January and Roselle Tuason in February.

Rudy's anniversary celebration will culminate with a big party, with all these singers performing with Side A, on March 25. Hyatt management says Rudy Francisco deserves no less than a seven-month celebration.

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2 TRIPLE X	2 UNFAITHFUL	2 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	2 SIGNS 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	2 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
3 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER	3 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:40, 1:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	3 SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 TRIPLE X
4 JOLOGS	4 DERAILED	MITCH VALDEZ ROCKS! - AUG. 29 - 9PM	4 INSOMNIA 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON
	5 SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON		5 TRIPLE X 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 JOLOGS
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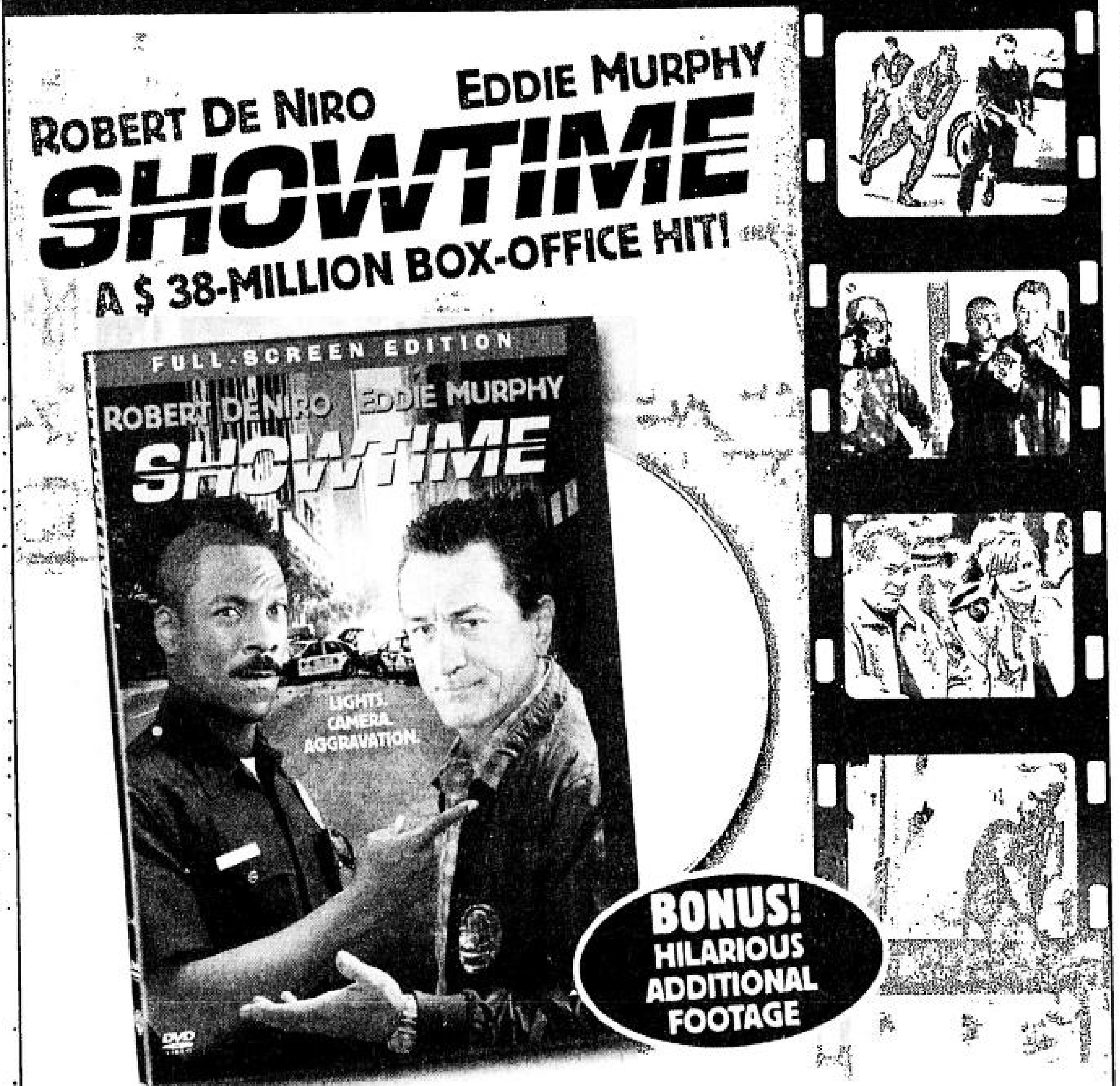

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A seemingly perfect life

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN **Adrian Lyne**'s "Unfaithful," the characters played by **Richard Gere** and **Diane Lane** have a seemingly perfect life. They love each other and dote on their young son even after 11 years of marriage.

Then Lane meets a young Frenchman (**Olivier Martinez**), and her wifely resolve crumbles.

His expert lovemaking awakens her to a new level of romance and eroticism, and acts like a a drug on her psyche, a veritable addiction that causes her to take the risks that eventually unmask her and betray her duplicity.

What makes this part of the story different from other filmic tales of this nature is a series of brief scenes that show Lane and her young lover in full erotic flail and froth, assuming unusual positions as they scale the heights of mutual pleasure.

Also interesting is the scene in which Lane is having coffee with two female friends. Martinez enters the same cafe and Lane follows him to the toilet, where they have ferocious sex, even as her clueless friends make small talk outside.

This scene shows how the affair has emboldened both Lane and Martinez, in strikingly different ways, and subtly warns that their undoing will only be a matter of time.

As the story continues to develop, other warning signs present themselves: Gere's coworker sees the lovers having lunch, Gere senses that his wife is coming up with too many excuses to go to town on spurious errands, and she spurns his amorous advances.

These danger signals prompt him to hire a private detective to follow Lane into the city, and his suspicions are soon confirmed by photos showing his wife and her lover outside a moviehouse (after making furtive love inside).

Instead of flying off the handle and breaking Martinez's neck, Gere very maturely goes to the Frenchman's apartment to talk things over with his younger rival.

Alas, things get out of hand despite Gere's determination to behave responsibly, and the film takes a sharper, darker turn that should terrify other married people, and inhibit them from launching into furtive, fetid affairs of their own!

We can't go into the details for fear of spoiling your fun, but we can intimate that the ploy's resulting downward spiral teaches both faithless wife and avenging husband that, after a certain point, consequences have a life of their own.

Thus, once again a lesson rears its pointy little head: Don't start something you can't finish—because it will finish you!

The film does well enough on the level of melodrama, "creative lovemaking," and the moral lesson, but it offers little to viewers who want to get deeper insights into the marital infidelity, its causes and its consequences.

On point of performance, Diane Lane comes off best of all, going from guilt to giddy excitement, erotic self-discovery, sexual addiction and remorse. For his part, Martinez makes a strong Hollywood debut as the charming seducer who loves playing with his victims, especially if they're slightly over-the-hill, like Lane's character.

Strangely enough, Gere's performance is found wanting in this production, possibly due to underwriting. The film is so focused on the hot affair that the husband is left out in the cold, in more ways than one!

'Mitch Valdes Rocks!'

DO try to catch the musical-comedy show, "Mitch Valdes Rocks!" at 9 a.m. today, Aug. 29, at Onstage Greenbelt. Call 891-5610.

Mitch's fans look forward to her shows because they combine her humorous observations about life (including her own), satirical jabs at the number of puffed-up institutions and personalities, and hearty songs sung the inimitable **Mitch Valdes** way (including a wicked "vocal impersonation" or two). Sounds like a great way to spend an evening!

'That '70s Show'

SEASON Four of "That '70s Show" (Star World, Mondays, 8 p.m.) explore the turmoil of Eric and Donna's break-up with an episode based on the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life."

Other highlights: Fez's never-ending quest for a girlfriend. When a tornado threatens Point Place and the Snow Prom. A specials musical show to celebrate the sitcom's 100th episode (with guest star player **Roger Daltry**). And Donna's new relationship with Kelso's brother, Caset (guest star **Luke Wilson**).

The new season started last Aug. 26 "The '70s Show" is replayed on Star World at 11:30 p.m. Mondays, and at 2:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel: Sunday, Sept. 1 at 8:30 a.m., "Little Women." 8 p.m., "Roxanne." 9:45 p.m., "3,000 Miles to Graceland." 11:40 p.m., "Scent of a Woman." Monday, Sept. 2 at 2 p.m., "For Love of the Game." 6 p.m., "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." Tuesday, Sept.3 at 11:30 a.m., "Billy Madison." At 10 p.m., "The Gift."

Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 3:15 a.m., "Whatever it Takes." Thursday, Sept. 5 at 3:30 a.m., "Anya's Bell." Friday, Sept. 6 at 2:45 a.m., "The Wood."

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 a.m., "A Night at the Roxbury." 4 p.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth."

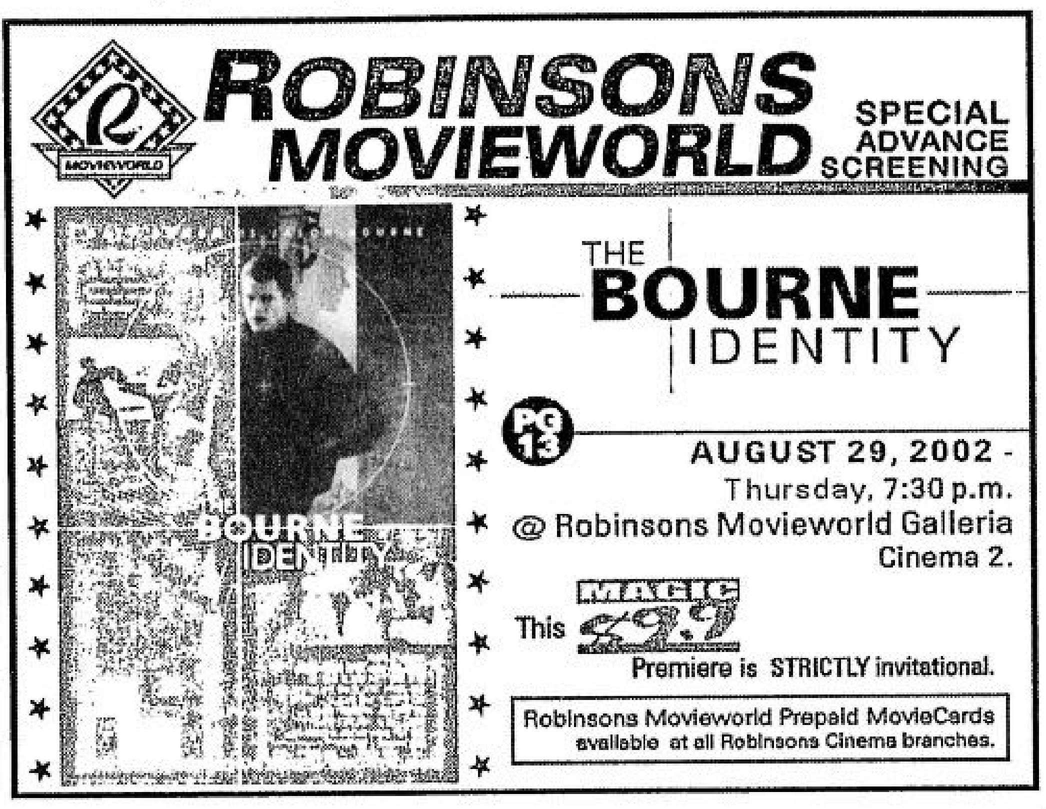
On the Cinemax channel: Sunday, Sept. 1 at 6:30 a.m., "Bell, Book and Candle." 2 p.m., "Project Greenlight 7: A Nice Fertile Ground." Monday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m., "The Phantom of the Opera." At 6:30 p.m., "A Map of the World."

Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 10:15 a.m., "Psycho." Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6 a.m., "Rosemary's Baby." 12:30 a.m., "The Ten Commandments."

Thursday, Sept. 5 at 12:40 a.m., "Angela's Ashes." 4:30 a.m., "The Ugly American." Friday, Sept. 6 at 8:15 a.m., "Big Man on Campus." Saturday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m., "Luv."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	AUSTIN POWERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SIGNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / MONSTER BALL
ODEON	DERAILED
ODEON-2	RESIDENT EVIL / PILAK
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEXZ &ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	DERAILED
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GAMITAN
B	JOLOGS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-2	SIGNS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-8	JOLOGS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-12	SIGNS
CINEMA-14	DERAILED
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	INSOMIA
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE-X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	SIGNS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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TRIPLE-X P13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	DERAILED P13 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30	SIGNS P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

THE PIANO PLAYER at the Calesa Bar. Behind him is a Malang.

RUDY FRANCISCO

The Calesa Man

By Marinel R. Cruz

RUDY FRANCISCO, Hyatt Regency Manila's entertainment director and resident pianist, is not the Rudy Francisco who played the forgetful grandfather of Karen/Gina on the TV commercial.

Rudy the commercial model was a Sampaguita Pictures actor in the 1950s who retired from the movies nearly 50 years ago. But Rudy the pianist is still making beautiful music at the Hyatt and is celebrating his 35th year in the business this month.

"Pianists don't retire," Rudy the music man tells the INQUIRER. "Like wine, they get better when they age."

Now 59, Rudy has been playing the piano since he was 16. He gave up a career in law to pursue his interest in music. He has been the leading force behind Hyatt's Calesa Music Bar and Lounge since March 1968 when the bar opened.

Upon his father's orders, Rudy took up political science at San Juan de Letran College in preparation for law. He wanted to study music "but I gave in to my father's request only because he promised to give me piano lessons," Rudy said.

Professional work

In 1967, he took his oath as a lawyer and was hired by the Ampil law office. But his first taste of professional work did not come from practicing law but from playing the piano at the Skyroom of the old Jai Alai on Taft Avenue in Manila. He would practice law later.

"I would study in the morning and perform at night," he recalls. "The Skyroom was the 'in' place for parties then."

While practicing law and performing at the Skyroom, he also worked at the Yupangco-Yamaha showroom in Makati as an instrument demonstrator. When then-Sheraton Hotel ordered an organ, showroom owner Gary Yupangco asked Rudy to demonstrate how the new instrument worked.

Sheraton board chair, Alfredo Montelibano, saw how well Rudy played and asked him to perform at the Calesa Bar as pianist and organist during lunchtime. Soon, he was offered a slot in the same bar in the evenings, too.

Tight schedule

Because of his increasingly tight schedule, he had to give up law and the Skyroom "so I could concentrate on playing twice a day at Calesa," he says.

Choosing between law and music was easy, he says, because he "just followed the desire of my heart."

After Hyatt Regency took over the hotel in 1971, the new management assigned Rudy to audition and hire singers.

"Angie Lopez was our first singer," he recalls. "She's now in South America, a grandmother."

He gave Imelda Papin, Tara Valdez, Rita Davila, Didith Reyes, Cynthia Patag, Maricris Bermont, Verni Varga, Janet Basco, Joey Albert, Lourna Pal and Roselle Tuason a break by hiring them to sing at Calesa Bar. After their Calesa stints, almost all of these women became among the country's most popular singers.

Rudy refuses to name his favorite among these singers but he calls Verni and Janet the "most memorable ones."

Aside from Rudy having all those singing women all these many nights for the past 35 years, his Calesa life has been filled with color and music and memories. He recalls that in 1979, then First Lady Imelda Marcos invited Verni and Janet to be part of her entourage in a goodwill trip to the Middle East. Her daughter Imee, who used to frequent Calesa, had suggested they bring Verni and Janet.

"They asked me to come along," Rudy says. "We performed for a group of dignitaries led by Saddam Hussein."

That trip was followed by others to Singapore, Hong Kong and the US.

Prime years

According to the piano player, 1979 to 1982 were the prime years of Calesa Bar, with Verni and Janet alternating with John Lesaca's Manila Band.

"There were only a few bars then but the most popular was Calesa," he says. "It was the favorite place of Manila's who's who. It still is. It is still known for good singers and bands."

After the Manila Band moved to other venues, Side A, DV8, FOJ (now Vanna Vanna) and a host of other groups helped draw the crowds into Calesa Bar.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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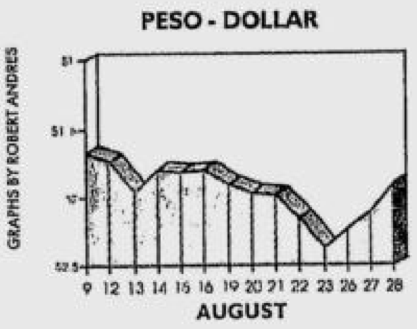
Peso recovers; low August inflation seen

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P 51.90 = $1
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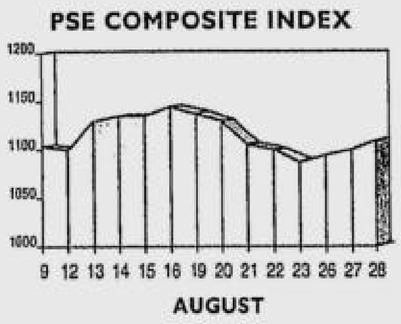
Y 118.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 28, 2002

GOLD: $311.75/312.25
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 28, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES extended a technical rebound for a third straight day yesterday ahead of the release of official figures for the country's second-quarter economic performance today.

Traders also said some institutional players might have picked up oversold blue chip issues as part of their month-end position adjustments.

"It is possible there is positioning ahead of the second-quarter GDP results although we are not expecting anything surprising. There could also be some month-end window dressing activities," said Elline Salvatierra, analyst at KGI Securities Inc.

The Philippine stock index advanced 10.20 points or 0.93 percent to end at 1,109.11 points after trading in a tight range of just around 13 points.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the peso was "out of the woods" for the meantime after it bounced back to the 51 level and closed 20 centavos better at 51.90 to $1.

Buenaventura, however, admitted that the P49:$1 target this year had become unlikely. "We would probably stay at the 51 level for the year," the central bank chief said.

For now, he said the "overreaction" on the peso appeared to have subsided.

He blamed the volatile movement of regional currencies aggravated by negative developments on the local front, particularly the beheading of two Abu Sayyaf victims and the growing budget deficit, as the factors affecting the value of the peso during the last two weeks.

Buenaventura said the government had sufficient ammunition, pointing to the $16 billion worth of reserves in the BSP vaults, to guard against undue speculation on the peso. Still, the BSP governor stressed that the central bank had not been intervening in the market.

The central bank chief said the financial markets have no reason to speculate against the peso given the declining inflation rate, low domestic interest rates, and modest economic growth.

The BSP chief said the inflation rate in August would likely settle between 2.4 and 2.6 percent and would keep the favorable trend in recent months. In July, the inflation slid to a 30-month low of 2.6 percent.

The government said it would keep inflation within the range of 4.5-5.5 percent this year.

The central bank chief said the prospects of the peso recovering past the 50 level had dimmed although he stressed that a very strong local currency was not favorable to exporters because it would mean lower earnings for the sector.

This year, the government is expecting exports to improve by at least 4 percent, reversing last year's contraction of 15.7 percent. Next year, export receipts are seen to grow by 10 percent while imports should also improve by 11 percent.

PSE, JG Summit at odds over disclosure rules

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elena R. Torrijos

AFTER recently being cleared by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Gokongweis' JG Summit Holdings Corp. remains in hot water with the Philippine Stock Exchange on alleged disclosure violations involving the controversial $925-million deal to buy the property and telecommunication interests of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd.

The PSE had slapped JG Summit with P30,000 in basic fine plus P1,000 for each day of delay in payment, but this was being contested by the Gokongweis through legal counsel Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

The matter was discussed during the PSE board meeting yesterday amid some pronouncements that JG Summit might engage the PSE in a court battle, but the PSE board still agreed to uphold the fines, PSE sources said.

"JG Summit respectfully submits that it is unreasonable for the exchange to penalize JG Summit for a disclosure made by a third party in a different country the contents of which turned out to be inaccurate and untrue. The implications of upholding the resolution, we submit, could have very serious legal and commercial implications," JG Summit legal counsel Frances Yuyucheng said in a letter to PSE dated Aug. 5.

The PSE, in two separate letters to JG Summit dated July 11 and July 30, insisted on the payment of the fines, which were imposed on account of the late filing of the holding firm on June 19—the day when the PSE ordered a trading halt on JG Summit after a disclosure by First Pacific in the United States indicated that JG Summit was a party to the memorandum of agreement involving the takeover of PLDT and Bonifacio Land Co.

Meantime, the Securities and Exchange Commission has directed PLDT to submit to the corporate watchdog the legal options available to the telecommunications giant in light of the discrepancies in the memorandum of agreement for the Gokongwei group to acquire PLDT and BLC.

PLDT earlier disclosed that the company's legal advisers presented to the board the available legal options available based on the discrepancies between the MOA and other disclosures made by First Pacific and the Gokongwei group in press releases and in submissions to the United States and Philippine SECs.

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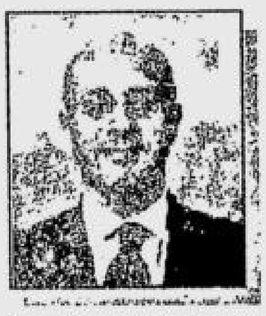

Mr. Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq
President
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Program Highlights

Morning Session – 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Topics: Transparency and disclosure
Accountability and audit
Minority stockholders' representation
Conflicts of interest

Afternoon Session – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Topics: Workplace concerns
Consumer rights
Clean technology
Environmental impact

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT is another eat-your-heart-out story involving the long-delayed bill on incentives for the "special purpose asset vehicle," the one nicknamed SPAV.

The overdue SPAV bill, passed by the House of Representatives a few months ago, is gathering dust in the Senate committee of Sen. Vilma . . . este, Ralph Recto.

Causing the delay, based on word going around town, is an administration senator. He is big in real estate. Hint: Sen. Juan Flavier is shorter than him.

The taller senator is said to be fighting for changes to the original bill. Bankers say the changes are lopsided in favor of the borrowers, particularly those in real estate.

By sheer coincidence, his companies are said to owe BPI, for instance, some P5 billion. But he, ah, convinced the court to restrain BPI from foreclosing on the group.

Thus, based on banking hush-hush, to get the SPAV bill through the Senate committee, the senator is asking this cute administration of Gloriaetta for similar deals.

If you believe the gossipy bankers, in other words, the good senator is merely angling for some horse-trading, and that's why he is horsing around with our future.

* * *

FOR despite its weird nickname, the SPAV bill lays down the rules on how banks can rid themselves of bad loans: by selling to special investors the collaterals they can foreclose.

Thus, the SPAV is just a recycling bin for things like real estate assets, whether they are finished, almost finished or already rotting even before they are finished.

Today, no wonder, this cute administration of Gloriaetta is begging the Senate, please, just to pass it, dammit, because we need the law only since five years ago.

Our neighboring countries such as Thailand and South Korea, which were hit the hardest by the 1997 Asian crisis, are on the way to cleaning up their banking systems.

But here in our strong republic, we are still at that early stage of fighting over where to put the godforsaken comma in the SPAV bill.

If this is the pro-basketball league PBA, those other countries in Asia are already playing the last two minutes of the seventh game of the finals.

We are still debating on whose wives should hit the art scene to seek out that special designer, who should then choose the tailor to sew our uniforms. Great! What's that in Gloriaetta's *kapampangan*—hit your art out?

* * *

TALKING of the PBA, by the way, I've heard that Vic del Rosario finally raised the money to pay for the talent fees of his people in Viva Vintage.

Vic owns Viva Vintage that owns the television rights for the PBA games. Talent fees were delayed by a couple of months even for poor hand-to-mouth make-up artists.

It could be, according to PBA insiders, that Viva Vintage gave priority to the PBA in using its advertising revenues which have gone down considerably.

Based on the contract, Viva Vintage should pay the PBA about P300 million a year. Viva Vintage, at the same time, takes care of the expenses in the TV coverage.

What is due the PBA, Viva Vintage is current. The thing is, the company has yet to start repaying the old debts of Carlos "Bobong" Velez, who used to own the TV rights.

When Vic took over, the merged firm Viva Vintage assumed the debts of Bobong with the PBA amounting to several hundreds of millions of pesos.

That is now Vic's biggest headache. It's a problem simply because his contract with the PBA is expiring this year. Other groups are salivating for the contract.

Nobody knows if the PBA will look kindly on Vic's bid to renew the contract, if Vic still owes the league bigtime.

Word is out that the giant networks ABS-CBN and GMA are not interested in the PBA. Who's interested? Whadayano—It's the group of Bobong himself.

Thanks to Vic, who is absorbing the old Viva debts and cleansing Bobong off any liability, Bobong can now start a new life, cleansed of all debts, and he can now proudly compete for the same business against his savior, Vic. What a life! It's just like the Senate.

* * *

BUT back to the SPAV, almost 19 percent of the total loans of our banks have turned sour. Bad loans prevent banks from taking risks by giving out new loans to business.

Our situation is not that bad, actually, because that 19 percent is the peak. The banking systems in our neighboring countries used to have bad loans of up to 60 percent.

Today, nevertheless, most of them are down to less than 8 percent. To think, they borrowed a lot of money abroad for a similar program to our SPAV bill.

Take South Korea. That country's government borrowed $100 billion to buy the bad debts of its banks. In Thailand, the government borrowed $50 billion.

We don't have to borrow a single devalued peso. Foreigners are putting up the capital. It is not going to take much because ours is a relatively low level of bad loans.

All we need is not love, nevertheless, but a law to clear the way for the real estate rummage sale. Yet the Senate cannot pass the law, thanks to some vested interest.

My info is that other senators in the administration bloc are not happy. Come on, that's not just interest hidden in an ordinary vest! It doesn't even look like a bulletproof vest! It's more of a bunker!

Who said it doesn't pay to be a senator?

Banks, funds keen on NHMFC asset sale

By Elena R. Torrijos

SEVERAL large investment banks and international funds have expressed keen interest in acquiring portions of the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp.'s P40-billion mortgage loan portfolio.

NHMFC president Angelico Salud yesterday told reporters that GE Capital, Goldman Sachs, Landlease of Australia, Lehman Brothers and two other groups asked the NHMFC and its financial adviser—auditing firm P&A Ernst & Young—how they could acquire portions of the NHMFC's portfolio.

According to Ernst & Young's Dale Strickland, Merrill Lynch and Lonestar Fund were also interested in acquiring these assets.

Cerberus Capital Management LP has also reportedly informed the government of its interest in the NHMFC's portfolio.

Cerberus earlier cut its planned investments in the Philippines by $500 million, diverting the money instead to Thailand amid delays in the approval of a law granting incentives to "special purpose asset vehicles."

Asian Supply Chain Specialists

let's talk

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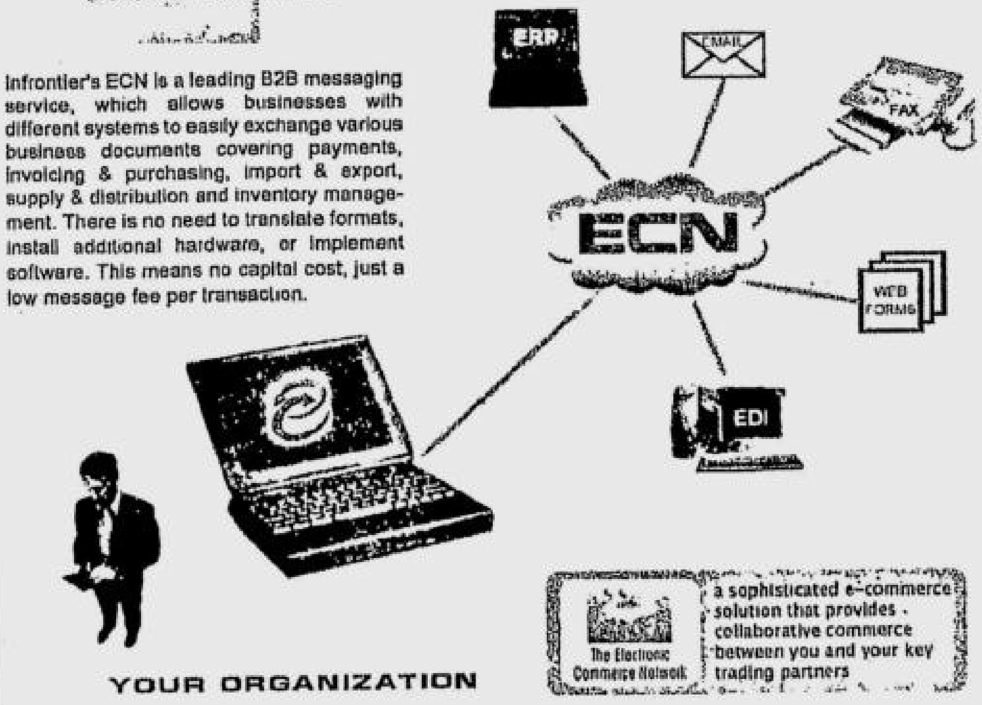

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Peza preparing special perks for tourism, agro-ind'l zones

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (Peza) is drawing up a special incentive package to spur the development of more agro-industrial economic zones and tourism enclaves in the country.

Peza Director General Lilia B. de Lima said the agency had been collaborating with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Tourism in drafting a package of fiscal perks that would create more diverse types of ecozones catering to specific target markets.

There has been a growing interest in establishing specialized economic zones based on the significant number of inquiries and applications that the Peza has been receiving for agro-industrial and tourism ecozones, De Lima said.

Peza had formed a special package for ecozones catering to information and communication technology.

Peza has so far approved one agro-industrial complex, the 42-hectare Cocochem Agro-Industrial Park in Bauan, Batangas. The ecozone is owned by United Coco Chemicals Inc. and among its locators are Minola Refining Corp. and glycerine maker Sakamoto Orient Chemicals Corp.

De Lima said the idea for an agro-industrial ecozone came up when a number of plantation owners and cooperatives wanted to avail of incentives to attract more processors and exporters in their areas. The development of the agriculture sector is one of the key measures in the government poverty alleviation and economic growth program.

Peza has likewise approved one ecotourism complex—Fil-Estate Land Inc.'s Ecocentrum Tourism Estate in Laguna. Peza wants to attract investments in tourism facilities or projects that will develop more tourism spots in the country. The government is banking on more dollars from tourism to boost the economy.

De Lima stressed that Peza would only grant perks to locators that comply with the agency's 70 percent export requirement. For tourism ecozones, Peza is planning to limit the incentives to the 5-percent gross income tax given to locators within ecozones.

Peza is currently the biggest generator of investments with P17.6 billion worth of projects registered in the first half this year, which were more than the Board of Investments' P13.34 billion during the same period.

Aside from creating more niches in ecozones, Peza is also pursuing reforms to lower the costs of doing business in these enclaves; encouraging sub-contracting and local sourcing of raw materials and parts; attracting foreign suppliers to hasten localization; cutting down import and export requirements; attracting more foreign investors; simplifying processing of alien employment permits, and stepping up its environment protection program.

DOE steps up efforts to build gas pipeline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is stepping up talks with private energy firms on the development of the $100-million Batangas-Manila natural gas pipeline in light of recently promulgated rules governing the new industry.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said pushing through with the project was expected to boost the development of the local natural gas industry.

The pipeline will transport processed Malampaya gas from the offshore plant in Batangas to Metro Manila, where the use of the local petroleum is seen to flourish.

Perez said that in addition to the Batangas-Manila pipeline, construction of another pipe connecting Bataan and Manila was being considered.

The official said the talks were an offshoot of the promulgation on Wednesday of a department circular providing the rules governing the downstream natural gas industry.

"We are meeting with the private sector on Sept. 9," he said. "We hope to get inputs from them on the development and regulation of the industry."

MANUAL OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (second from left) presents the company's Manual of Corporate Governance to Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista (second from right) with Ayala Corp. general counsel and corporate secretary Mercedita Nolledo and SEC commissioner Fe Gloria. Ayala Corp.'s Manual of Corporate Governance formalizes the company's commitment to the principles and best practices of corporate governance.

PAL sets P911-M profitability mark

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. disclosed on Tuesday that it was set on chalking up a profit of P911 million by the end of its fiscal year in March 2003.

In an interview, PAL president Avelino Zapanta said PAL had been looking at a net loss, but strong earnings in recent months had allowed the airline to revise its target and come up with a positive figure.

PAL posted a P984-million net income in the first quarter of its fiscal year covering the months of April, May and June, and hit the P1-billion mark last month.

"Our finance people actually came up with very conservative targets. At the start of the fiscal year—in the first cut of the budget—they came up with a net loss. But I told them we had to do better than that, so they came up with an P11-million target," he told reporters.

By April and May—the company's peak period for the first half of its fiscal year—the target was again adjusted to P798 million, Zapanta said. After a sales meeting in July, with PAL posting P66 million that month, the airline came up with the final P911-million figure.

"We'll try our best to cover up the P1.6-billion losses we had last year, although I know this is a tall order," Zapanta said.

From April to June, he said, passenger traffic and revenue grew by only a single digit, but PAL's net income still skyrocketed because of a huge decrease in operating expenses.

BAP seeks solution to tax row

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines is seeking a policy resolution to the deadlock over the exemption of capital notes issued by banks from the 20-percent withholding tax.

In an interview Monday, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the withholding tax exemption was provided by law and was critical to the efforts of banks to improve their financial health by raising tier 2 capital or seeking long-term debt.

With discussions between the BAP and the finance department on the legality of the tax exemption going nowhere, Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison advised the BAP to take up the issue with top government officials.

Coronel said that the BAP would meet with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho next week to come up with a firm government policy on the matter.

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Program of 1997 exempted individual holders of long-term bank issues from paying the 20-percent withholding tax.

The finance department appeared to be dragging its feet on the issue since the notes that the banks would issue were expected to compete with government securities in the market, and therefore raise the cost of government borrowings.

Business meet seen paving way for new ventures

SURIGAO CITY—At least 132 foreign investors, including a representative of an Australian railway company, have joined the 11th Mindanao Business Conference (Minbizcon), which opened here yesterday.

The Minbizcon, organized by the Mindanao Business Council, was aimed at selling the island's economic potentials by facilitating partnerships and ties between local businessmen and their foreign counterparts.

The conference, which boasts of 800 participants, also aims to highlight Mindanao's investment potentials, tourist destinations and the island's products.

During the three-day conference, the participants will also submit policy resolutions that will detail the needed support in developing Mindanao's existing infrastructure for business to prosper.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be in town on Aug. 30 to receive the said policy-resolutions.

Aside from Ms Macapagal, Malaysia's Minister for Industrial Development Datuk Tham Nyip Shen, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Speaker Jose de Venecia, several Cabinet secretaries and LBP president Margarito Teves are also expected to attend the Minbizcon as resource speakers.

Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers told reporters that the conference would not only give the 800 participants a bird's eye view of what Mindanao has to offer. *Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, August 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	19	17.5	19	1,431,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	43	42	42.5	1,387,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	29	27	28	478,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	20,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	64	64	64	64	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	35	34.5	35	83,000
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.5	12	10.5	12	5,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.5	100,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	190,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1190	1175	1190	440
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	915	910	915	380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22.5	21.5	22.5	15,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.55	1,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	487.5	490	487.5	490	970
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	200,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	5,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	37,000
Piltel	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,310,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	297.5	290	297.5	189,710
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	25,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19	18.5	18.5	70,400
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	31.5	29.5	31	1,396,800
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	1,103,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	502,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.59	0.59	2,300,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	317,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	2,900
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.78	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	150,900
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	52	52	114,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.36	160,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	614,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	80,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	60,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.24	23,020,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	440,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	152,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	12.5	13	12.5	13	952,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.6	4,130,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.095	2,000,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	880,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.37	0.38	3,310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.75	2,210,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.6	14,119,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	5,198,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	1,611,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.175	0.16	0.175	5,780,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.043	0.05	0.04	0.045	1,300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	7,640,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,090,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	100,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	20,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,701,220	105,166,175.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	80,795,480	199,222,835.00
PRO	39,538,000	134,173,700.00
Mining	4,770,000	557,950.00
OIL	55,200,000	167,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	184,004,700	439,287,760.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	435.22	UP 5.19
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,531.98	UP 11.50
PRO	509.62	UP 4.85
Mining	1,146.66	UP 11.05
OIL	1.37	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	635.98	UP 0.02
Composite	1,109.11	UP 10.20

NO. OF ADVANCES: 38; NO. OF DECLINES: 8; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,957

DISCLOSURES

A. BROWN Co. Inc. has adopted the company's manual on corporate governance. The company also confirmed the purchase of over one million treasury shares at P480,233.15

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MEDCO Holdings Inc. appointed Dionisio Carpio Jr. as nominee of the company to the board of **Export Industry Bank Inc.**

* * *

BHI Holdings Inc. appointed Juanita Tan as compliance officer of the company.

* * *

PRIMEX Corp. announced the appointment of Ericson Ang as compliance officer.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. reported an unaudited net income of P8.7 million for the first six months of 2002.

* * *

BOGO-MEDELLIN Milling Co. Inc. disclosed the resignation of Timothy Bennett, Bi Yong Chungunco and Marise Marquez as director, corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively. Frances Yuyucheng replaces Chungunco.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 4, 9 a.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza.

* * *

FORUM Pacific Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 14 with record date on Sept. 24 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MANILA Mining Corp. disclosed that Nigel Tamlyn has resigned as director of the company because he had to go back to his country for personal reasons. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

GOINGS-ON

Investment standards

THE ASSOCIATION of Investment Professionals, Manila (AIPM) is calling on investment and finance practitioners to elevate the standards of their practice through the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program.

CFA is a globally recognized designation given to investment professionals who have mastered the rigorous field of investment management and research analysis through a specialized distance-learning program.

The program, which aims to develop and reinforce a fundamental knowledge of investment principles, involves a three-part broad-based, self-study curriculum.

The program is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree in any field and at least three years of work experience in the investment business. To learn more about the CFA Program, attend the CFA Info Night on Aug. 29, 6 p.m. at the Manila Peninsula Hotel hosted by the AIPM.

EWBC's financial managers

EAST West Bank is offering new and innovative services to corporate clients and designed to meet the complex requirements of businesses.

The corporate suite is a package that provides businesses the convenience to outsource different administrative tasks to minimize costs and improve operational efficiency, said Chris Lapuz, product manager for cash management of East West Bank.

Lapuz said a client had the option to choose the facility under the corporate suite that could best fit its need. The bank even allows a client to avail himself of multiple facilities that can be conveniently arranged into one service package. The facilities offered include PayrollAssist and the BizCheque.

CURRENCIES

Aug. 28, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.017294	1.000000	52.0970
Japan	Yen	0.008608	0.008462	0.4408
United Kingdom	Pound	1.560631	1.534100	79.9220
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130424	0.128207	6.6792
Switzerland	Franc	0.681604	0.670017	34.9059
Canada	Dollar	0.654882	0.643749	33.5374
Singapore	Dollar	0.582242	0.572344	29.8174
Australia	Dollar	0.562881	0.553312	28.8259
Bahrain	Dinar	2.699109	2.653224	138.2250
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271279	0.266667	13.8926
Brunei	Dollar	0.577024	0.567215	29.5502
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024129	0.023719	1.2357
UAE	Dirham	0.276981	0.272272	14.1846
Korea	Won	0.000855	0.000840	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983000	51.2114
Argentina	Real	0.281020	0.276243	14.3914
Brazil	Real	0.331906	0.326264	16.9974
Denmark	Kroner	0.134702	0.132412	6.8983
India	Rupee	0.021005	0.020648	1.0757
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267745	0.263193	13.7116
Mexico	New Peso	0.102757	0.101010	5.2623
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479968	0.471809	24.5798
Norway	Kroner	0.135408	0.133106	6.9344
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017126	0.016835	0.8771
South Africa	Rand	0.096759	0.095114	4.9552
Sweden	Kroner	0.109612	0.107749	5.6134
Syria	Pound	0.023015	0.022624	1.1786
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029798	0.029291	1.5260
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000729	0.000717	0.0374

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

What engines need for bad weather

By Tessa R. Salazar

CAR engines are shrinking and becoming more lightweight. Yet, such engines run fiercer. Engines have metamorphosed into lean, mean roaring machines. They have become high-powered yet efficient.

Much is expected of high-performance engines. They are often overworked and more prone to overheating. Engines run by combustion. Its pistons and cylinders grind about inside as the vehicles burn rubber.

Engine oil manufacturers are feeling the heat when faced with a rapidly evolving machine. They're struggling for ways to keep up with the times. Engine oil must not only lubricate, it must also cool, clean, improve fuel efficiency and even act as rust protection for the engine and its parts. That's just asking too much from an ordinary engine oil.

40 brands

There are more than 40 brands of engine oil in the Philippines. The more recognizable ones, such as Caltex Havoline, Mobil and Castrol, are all jockeying for position and aiming to dislodge Shell Helix, which has been touted as the leadselling oil for passenger cars.

Castrol may now have something up its sleeve to boost its bid to lead the engine oil market when it recently launched GTX engine oil with synthetic guard additive. Castrol claims that GTX can take the heat for the engine, preventing the engine from becoming too thin or being degraded. It also forms a strong film that coats the engine parts, neutralizing the acids caused by condensation. This keeps rust from taking a firm foothold on the engine. It also contains an anti-wear chemical to protect the en-

WHAT /B6

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

NEW URVAN ESTATE

Luxury made even better

THE LAVISHLY designed Urvan Estate, a must-have luxury van of Universal Motors Corp., is now made even better, with more perks and versatile features

Topping its striking innovations for this year is the installation of the redesigned back row seats that can be folded to give way to a spacious compartment for the storage of luggage and other important items. Able to accommodate up to 12 persons in roomy comfort, the Estate is perfect for traveling and family outings. It has an extra cargo volume of 1.4 cubic meters.

Other features

Another distinctive feature of the Urvan Estate is the ultra-cool and cozy temperature inside unaffected by sudden changes of weather on the outside and evenly distributed throughout the entire cabin, thanks to its individualized aircon vents. Like the rest of Nissan's light commercial vehicles, the Estate has the signature calsonic air-conditioning system that is distinctively "Nissan," and highly prized by its loyal clientele.

Aside from its interior embellishments, the Urvan Estate is also packed with security features to shelter passengers from potentially fatal road collisions.

Strategically placed in the most impact-prone areas, the van has a safety crushable zone, side impact beams, child safety lock and centralized door locking system. It also has a load sensing valve for reliable braking. All passengers are secured, so to speak, inside the Estate.

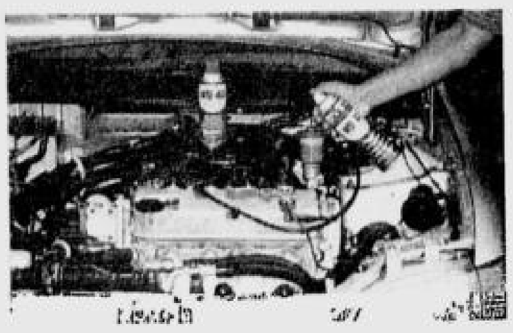
The Urvan Estate is further equipped with single-in dash CD stereo, power windows and white meter gauges that illuminate even when everything has gone pitch black at night. It has the ZD30DD diesel engine, awarded the Energy Conservation Prize by the Energy Conservation Center, Japan, that is fuel efficient, high performance, without compromising quality. The model is also certified completely built-up (CBU) straight from Japan, which thereby assures customers that each unit has passed the highest international standards.

Upgraded model

Now also available in all dealerships is the 10-seater Urvan Estate CEO, especially created to suit the dynamic lifestyle of the top guns of the corporate community.

Another dealer offer, this upgraded model has multifunctional second-row Captain Seats that can be rotated, slided and reclined according to the whims of the passengers. The seats can be readjusted to simulate a mini conference room. It comes in stylish seat covers and a matching slim and foldable table with built-in cupholders. The Urvan Estate CEO is much like a moving corporate boardroom that is a unique venue for informal yet intimate meetings, free-spirited consultations, or spontaneous get-togethers .

With the new Urvan Estate, Universal Motors Corp. affirms anew its commitment to quality and allegiance to customer satisfaction.



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Don't let the rainy season damage your vehicle or get your car stalled during flash floods. WD-40 not only penetrates but also keeps gears and electrical parts dry and clean. It protects them against rust and dirt for smoother operation. It is a quality product from SAF.

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- ***FREE*** Bed Canopy for the 4x4 Frontier *(or an accessory package of equivalent value)*

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** *Insurance company based on dealer option*

Visit your nearest Nissan distributor or see posters and flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1435 Series of 2002

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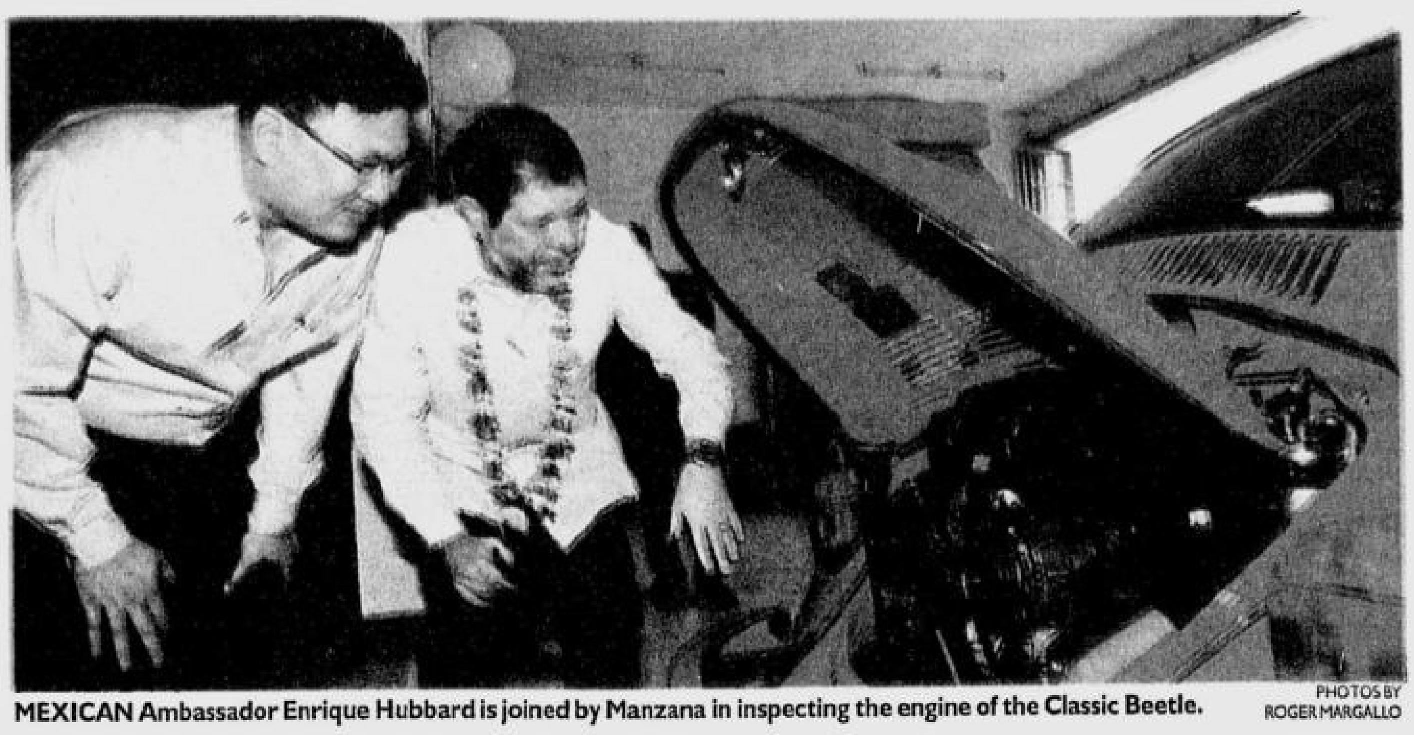
Beetle importer pins hope on Mexican support

By Charles E. Buban



MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique Hubbard is joined by Manzana in inspecting the engine of the Classic Beetle.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

LAST week's event was encouraging for Hancars Auto Center when Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard visited the Quezon Avenue dealership to check on the 2002 Classic Beetle exclusively sold there. Hancars is the first dealership in the country to import the Mexican-made vehicle and the ambassador expressed his government's support for the dealership's venture to import the 2002 Classic Beetle, which is produced exclusively in that Latin American country.

Webin Dy Manzana of Hancars played host to the ambassador who was accompanied by other Mexican embassy officials. During the visit, the ambassador expressed pride in the Classic Beetle, stressing that it is a German design and quality that is handcrafted in Mexico.

The Classic Beetle is manufactured at a plant in Puebla, a city about 65 km southeast of Mexico City, and is the only Volkswagen facility in the world producing the Classic Beetle (known as the Sedan there) as well as the next generation Beetle, the Jetta and the Golf Cabrio. With about 16,000 workers, the plant had a record output of 425,703 vehicles last year. About 80 percent of the vehicles were exported.

In 1978, Volkswagen stopped manufacturing the Classic Beetle in Germany and transferred its facilities in Mexico. Germany restricted the export of the Classic Beetle from its subsidiary in Mexico for fear that it might interfere with the demand for next the generation Beetle line, which was launched in 1998. As a result, the Classic Beetle took different names: Sedan in Mexico, Nostalgic in Germany and Classic in the United States.

Very honored

"I am very honored with the ambassador's visit and proud to bring back the Classic Beetle here. Hopefully with the ambassador's visit, we could begin arranging something with the Mexican government since I still get the vehicles from Japan. As of now, we cannot directly import the 2002 Classic Beetle from Mexico," said Manzana.

For his part, the Mexican ambassador promised full support and expressed hope to facilitate Manzana's request.

"I will be again meeting with the ambassador this week to formally discuss this proposal," Manzana said.

According to him, his second batch of 2002 Classic Beetle was already sold out and he expects his third shipment to arrive before the end of September. "Demand is indeed great for this wonderful car and being made in Mexico should not discourage the market since the technology behind this car is still Volkswagen," informs Manzana.

Improvements

Other than its original 1979 features (air-cooled, rear-mounted engine), the 2002 Classic Beetle is equipped with a 1.6-liter multipoint injection EFI engine, a CD player, a factory-installed air-conditioning system, an electronic immobilizer with digital key, an anti-theft alarm system and a three-way catalytic converter.

The 2002 Classic Beetle was also redesigned to conform with today's design trends like the removal of chrome trims and the introduction of body-colored bumpers, use of digital key, anti-theft alarm system and a new dashboard and interior design. "Apart from these improvements, it's the same Classic Beetle we have come to love and respect," clarifies Manzana.

Priced at P698,000, the 2002 Classic Beetle carries a six-month unlimited mileage warranty on parts and labor. "There's no problem on spare parts since this model is basically the same as that of the 1973-1974 Beetle assembled by DMG," assures Manzana. "Spare parts are readily available in auto stores around the country—except for the ignition and fuel systems which my dealership now carries just in case they are needed."

Datumanong clears Mir anew

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

STILL surprised at the almost utter helplessness of our officials to remove sidewalk vendors from the metropolis?

If your answer is yes, then you are either ignorant of the ways of city life or have become callous and would rather not give a damn anymore to the world around you.

Do you think their helplessness is by design? I mean, are they doing it by choice?

* * *

They are not helpless. They do it by choice. And they are not about to discontinue that.

Our officials—from the mayors to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando—are solely responsible for the well-being of the metropolis.

Alas, they are also responsible for the big city's utter neglect.

If you dispute that, you are as hopeless as Metro Manila's traffic jams.

* * *

Tell me, what's all the fuss regarding the sidewalks becoming the exclusive domain now of vendors and hawkers?

Don't tell me you were born yesterday.

C'mon, fellas. It's been that way for ages. Why it's because officials have "said" so.

Common sense, fellas, common sense.

* * *

You have officials condoning an illegal act, what results from that?

Simple. The illegal act—as in vendors and hawkers transforming sidewalks into market stalls and thus contributing also to the city's traffic problem—becomes a way of life. It's illegal, but because it's been there for ages, it has now taken the form of legality.

It's like *jueteng*. It's illegal, but because officials allow our people to indulge in it, its illegality gets beclouded.

* * *

Have you ever given this question a serious thought?

Whose duty is it to clear the sidewalks of vendors illegally plying their trade? Aren't the mayors empowered to remove them, if not our police forces?

I think the answer is yes. The mayors, the police, they are the only solutions to the problem. Alas, they seem to contribute to the problem.

* * *

But look what has been happening.

Mayors come and go, but the sidewalk vendors and hawkers remain.

Police officials come and go, but the sidewalk vendors and hawkers remain.

Corollary to that, police officials come and go, but law-breaking public utility drivers (jeepneys, taxies, buses) do not only remain. They proliferate.

MMDA chairmen (Oreta, Bunye, Abalos) come and go, but traffic jams remain. MMDA chairmen (Oreta, Bunye, Abalos) come and go, but garbage collection problems in the metropolis remain.

It has really become a political issue, if not a G.I. (government issue). Our officials, mostly the politicians, need votes.

You destroy the stalls of sidewalk vendors, you drive away hawkers, and you drive away voters come election time.

Simple as that.

* * *

Secretary Simeon Datumanong of the Department of Public Works and Highways has said it again: DPWH Undersecretary Edmundo Mir has been cleared of alleged involvement in the "repair vehicles scam."

The stenographic notes during the Senate hearing on Monday bear witness to that.

I pity Usec Mir, an honorable son of Mangaldan, Pangasinan. He was a victim of presidential indiscretion when he was suspended for 90 days by President Macapagal-Arroyo due to his alleged involvement in the "repair vehicles scam."

GMA did it without due process, doing as she did that embarrassing decision mainly because she relied on hearsay. She was given "dossiers" by professional ass-lickers who have now invaded not only the fringes of Malacañang but also the corridors of power.

Never was Usec Mir invited to explain his side before the President dropped the axe.

What is this a charade?

* * *

It may interest the President to know that Usec Mir is a CESU (career man) and in his almost four decades of service to the government, his name has never been tarnished—not even by a simple memo of tardiness.

Many times under different chief executives of the republic even before Gloria came along, Mir, who is due to retire in December, was offered the top portfolio of the department. He politely declined such offers. It was a decision consistent with his calling: Rare is a career man seen toiling in the government.

Now that Secretary Datumanong has cleared Usec Mir the second time of any impropriety—publicly, that is—shouldn't it only be right that GMA immediately rectify the wrong done on Mir?

It is said that a person who admits his/her mistake becomes greater tenfold.

But is GMA capable of doing that?

* * *

QUOTE ME. Since rain is a bit of the acid type, it is best that you wash your car with tap water after driving through rain.

RPN EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

I've read that you can shave cylinder heads to increase compression ratios. What is the advantage of this?

—*Jeffrey Ang*

IF you ever find yourself racing in a class where the rules state that you must use a stock OEM or original equipment cylinder head, stock valve lift and stock diameter valves, and you want to get a little more power out of your engine, what you could do is "shave your head"—your cylinder head, that is.

There's no question that the cylinder head is really the heart and soul of the engine, because that's where the power is made. And when you shave it to some degree to make the surface flat, it increases the compression ratio.

But what exactly is the compression ratio and why increase it?

The compression ratio is the ratio between the cylinder's maximum volume (when the piston is at its lowest point)—and its minimum volume (when the piston is at its highest point in the cylinder). So a 10:1 static compression ratio means there is 10 times the cylinder volume at piston bottom dead center (BDC) than there is at piston top dead center (TDC).

A higher compression ratio, to a point, means higher thermal efficiency and better fuel economy while producing relatively low emissions during normal driving conditions.

The trouble is that high compression can also cause an engine to knock and have other problems particularly when a driver pushes the pedal to the metal. So for the most of us, rebuilding and modifying the cylinder head is best left to the experts.

Low installment rate offer for Mitsubishi parts, services

CITIBANK cardholders who own Mitsubishi vehicles can pay for after-sales products and services at special installment rates at various Mitsubishi dealers and Service Plus centers. This offer is good until the end of the month.

Available through the PayLite Installment Plan from Citibank, the country's largest single issuer of credit cards, this offer is open for a minimum transaction of P3,000. Mitsubishi car owners can now enjoy no interest for the three- and six-month installment terms. As an added perk, genuine Mitsubishi parts and services can be availed of in low installments of 9-, 12-, 18- and 24-month terms.

Offering increased financial flexibility, PayLite is a unique privilege available to all cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Clear MasterCard.

What engines need. . .

From page B5

gine at medium and high temperatures.

Regardless of the age of the engine, Castrol claims GTX is nonexclusive—it works well with new or old cars.

Which should work just as well with many Filipino motorists who aren't that particular with the engine oils they use for their cars.

Paul Salapantan, Castrol's 4-wheel marketing manager, says 60 percent of the market "doesn't 'give a hoot' on engine maintenance and what engine oil they use" despite punishing but real scenarios such as traffic jams, unrefined fuels, hot, humid weather, bad roads and improper driving habits.

These factors can cause damaging buildups of piston deposits. An engine oil such as GTX could clean out the deposits and keep the engine free moving.

Advice

GTX can't do it all, however. No matter how sophisticated the oil or the engine, the owners still decide their car's fate.

Thus, Salapantan advises motorists to conduct periodic engine checkups, regular tune-ups, and follow scheduled oil changes indicated in the automaker's handbook. Oil changes give the engine that refreshing "bath," clearing the engine of damaging combustion by-products such as acids, soot and water. These by-products affect a car's performance, and ultimately shorten engine life and hamper efficiency.

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Promo duration: August 14 to September 15, 2002
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1537 Series of 2002

Stripped-down and old model cars

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

A COMMON complaint among car buffs is that cars sold in the Philippines are stripped- or watered-down editions of the same makes and models sold in Japan, North America or Europe. They also complain that some motor vehicles being passed off here as 2002 models are actually earlier—1999, 2000 or 2001—models.

For example, the Mitsubishi Lancer currently on sale is not the 2002 model but the late 1999 or early 2001 model. Many other cars sold here are either old or watered-down models. This was pointed out by a reader who e-mailed me from Vancouver, Canada after reading last Thursday's (Aug. 22) issue of the INQUIRER, a copy of which he had borrowed from a neighbor.

The stripped-down norm was also noted by several people at a media get-together last Friday. And yet, they griped, cars cost so much more here than they do in the United States or Japan!

Different specs

A peek at the Canadian website of Mitsubishi confirmed that the 2002 Lancer sold in North America not only looks different from the Lancer sold here, it has different specs such as a 2.0-liter, 120-hp engine and 8-way adjustable driver's seat. The only standard features the Philippine and North American Lancers share are air conditioning and an AM/FM/CD audio system.

As shown in the Canadian website, the 2002 Montero (called Pajero in Asia) also has a different, more stylish exterior and different specs, such as a 200-hp multivalve V6 engine, compared to the Pajero sold locally. By looking at the 2001-2002 Automotive Guidebook of Japan (Vol. 48), I discovered that the Toyota Hi-Ace currently sold here is not the 2002 model. A Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMPC) source later admitted that the Hi-Ace TMPC is selling is the 1999-2000 model. At least, the Hi-Ace is not misleadingly advertised as the 2002 model, while the Lancer is.

Noteworthy below each car's photo in Mitsubishi's Canadian website was the disclaimer: "Vehicles shown are currently available in the US and may not be sold in Canada. Specifications are for vehicles sold in the US only." The disclaimer confirms a fact of life in the global auto industry: that car manufacturers tailor the specs of their products according to the market characteristics of each country.

Safety standards

Why, for example, does the Toyota Echo (known as Vitz abroad) have airbags and anti-lock brakes (ABS) as standard equipment when it is sold in Japan and Europe, but not when it is sold here—although it is imported as a CBU (completely built unit) from Japan? When I posed this question to a TMPC executive shortly after the Echo was launched in June 2000, he replied that equipping the Echo with these safety features would push up its retail price beyond the reach of its target market.

He might have added—but did not—that anyway, cars sold in this country are not required to have airbags and ABS, only seatbelts, while in some other countries airbags and ABS are mandatory. So if the car you bought from a local dealer does not have the same features as the same make and model a relative bought in the United States, you can blame our lack of automotive safety standards.

Also our lack of sophistication and smallness as a car market. After all, this is a Third World country, so in general car buyers don't know what First World specs and features they are missing. The few who know and demand First World specs can travel to the car's country of origin and have it shipped here as a CBU. That is, if they have the money to go car-shopping this way.

First World features

This is not to say that First World features are always desirable or suitable for Philippine road and climate conditions. For instance, what use would we have for a heater or heated leather seats in a car? The importance of ABS is also debatable, particularly in city driving where traffic is more often crawling than flowing—although it's nice to know that the ABS will be there if and when you'll ever need it on the highway.

But above all, the Philippines' peculiar tax structure for motor vehicles decides what goes in and what is left out of a car. The best illustration is the Honda CR-V, the 2002 Philippine edition of which got five more seats to become a 10-seater and left out the previous generation's 4-wheel-drive system, thereby gaining exemption from the excise tax and 4WD tax and enabling Honda Cars Philippines Inc. to shave P200,000 off its suggested retail price.

It was a clever, precedent-setting marketing ploy and it succeeded because, among other things, Honda left in the CR-V's life-saving features: airbags and ABS.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Please! One traffic violation at a time.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Shell and Ferrari celebrate an historic 6th World Constructors' Championship Title together

Shell wins its 15th Formula One World Constructors' Championship

Ferrari, Shell's technical partner won the Hungarian Grand Prix today with Rubens Barrichello finishing ahead of Michael Schumacher. The result gives Ferrari an unassailable lead in the Constructor's Championship with 4 races still remaining. The victory marks the partnership's 6th Constructors' Championship together and is the pairing's 99th Formula One Grand Prix victory. Both records are unmatched in Formula One. In addition, Shell also won the Formula One World Contructors' Championship today for the 15th time.

Today's result is the climax of a thrilling season for the Shell and Ferrari team. Shell fuels and oils have powered and protected the Ferrari team whose cars have won all but two of the thirteen races so far this year. This race also marked Shell and Ferrari's 49th consecutive podium finish—a world record and a stunning testimony to the reliability the partners have been able to achieve.

The Shell team is an integral part of today's success and its importance to Ferrari cannot be underestimated. For example, Shell delivers Ferrari with more than 220,000 litres of fuel and 40,000 kilograms of blended oil throughout a year for its Formula One and road car project. That is a staggering 150 deliveries to 20 different circuits in 15 different countries!

Around 40 people are directly involved with the blending and despatch of Ferrari's fuel and lubricants and regardless of the roles played in the project, all have earned themselves the ultimate accolade, a Formula One World Championship.

As well as helping Ferrari to clean up on the track, Shell is also helping to clean up the environment. By working closely with Ferrari, Shell is able to lead the fuel industry in producing fuels that burn more efficiently and are thus more environmentally friendly, drastically reducing world-wide emmissions.

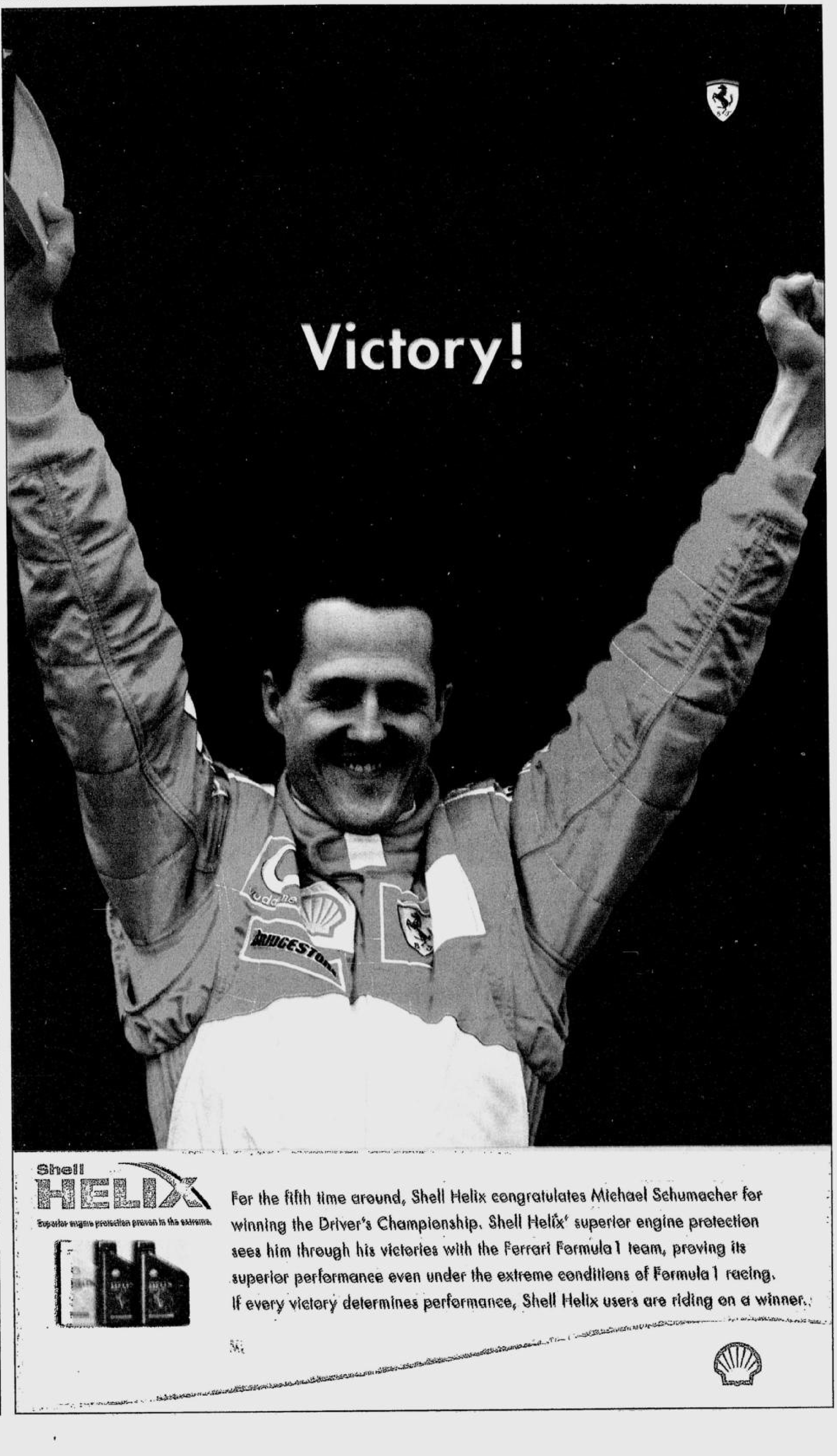
In fact, thanks to the relationship with Ferrari, the fuels that Shell sell worldwide reduce emissions by such an extent that it is like creating a rainforest 100 times the size of Manhattan every year.

Speaking after the race, Shell's Global Sponsorship Manager, Juan Carlos Perez said, "What a year! Not only did Michael win the title so early in the season, but we defended our Constructors' Championship in style. Everything the team has been working so hard towards has come together today on the race track. Team, drivers, mechanics and Shell engineers all worked together perfectly this weekend and it is good to see it pay off this way. Well done everybody!"

David Barnes, Shell's Global Motorsport Business Manager said, "I joined the Shell team at the beginning of the year and knew I would be joining a strong team but I was struck by exactly how hard the Ferrari and Shell teams would work. 2002 has been a bounty year for us, with Shell products performing exactly how we projected in the cars. Not only that, but each time we brought a new fuel or oil to a race, we came away with a victory—not a bad record I'm sure you"ll agree!"

Work is already well underway by the Shell and Ferrari on the new engine and car for the 2003 season. With both Championships successfully defended this year, Shell and Ferrari can focus their efforts on 2003. With such a pedigree and such an empressive season, any pretenders to next year's crowns have their work cut out.

ADVT


Victory!
Shell HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

For the fifth time around, Shell Helix congratulates Michael Schumacher for winning the Driver's Championship. Shell Helix' superior engine protection sees him through his victories with the Ferrari Formula 1 team, proving its superior performance even under the extreme conditions of Formula 1 racing. If every victory determines performance, Shell Helix users are riding on a winner.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Grand sweep for GE as leading white line brand in BPI Madness

IT'S a grand sweep for GE Appliances as the number one white line appliance brand in the BPI Card Installment Madness, a grand appliance exhibit held three times a year. For the third time in a row, GE Appliances topped the white line brand category. The most recent "No. 1" distinction was earned after the staging of the 28th BPI Card Installment Madness held recently at the Central Sunken Area of the Glorietta Center in Makati where GE came out the most preferred while line brand by consumers. GE was also No. 1 in the 26th and 27th editions of the BPI appliance exhibit.

GE bested other white line brands in terms of total unit sales, which clearly shows consumers' preference for GE white line products. GE posted a 37-percent increase in sales compared to the total sales it garnered during the previous exhibit.

Considered the country's most prestigious appliance exhibit, the BPI Card Installment Madness is used as a barometer by the appliance industry in determining consumers' most preferred appliance brands. It is used as a gauge by dealers in determining which brands are in-demand. The recent exhibit that ran for 19 days shows GE is the clear winner in the white line category. It even outsold most brown line appliance brands.

This recognition is an added feather to the cap of GE, which, early this year, was voted Asia's Platinum SuperBrand by consumers in Reader's Digest's annual survey. It garnered a survey score three times higher than its nearest competitor. GE has also been named America's most preferred appliance brand.

GE Appliances product line includes the US-made side-by-side and stainless refs, US laundry, microwave ovens and the Advantium, and Asian products such as the popular and dependable single-door and no-frost refs, air conditioners and freezers.

GE Appliances are distributed by CYA Industries with main office and service center located at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City. For more information, call 631-8282 or 887-0075.

SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAM

Three executives from the Clean and Green Foundation were invited by the Singapore Embassy to participate in a course on Developing and Managing a Garden City now ongoing in Singapore until Aug. 30. The course is sponsored by the Singapore government under the Singapore Cooperation Programme. Shown is Amelita Ramos, chair and president of the Clean and Green Foundation with Singapore Ambassador Jacky Foo. Standing, from left, are Rita Dy, manager for marketing communications and services, Singapore Airlines, Imelda P. Sarmiento, executive director of Clean and Green Foundation, David Lau, SIA general manager, Janice M. Lava and Eloisa Zulueta of Clean and Green Foundation, and Paul Koh, Counselor from the Singapore Embassy.

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16HRS

MATRIX NET ACCORD

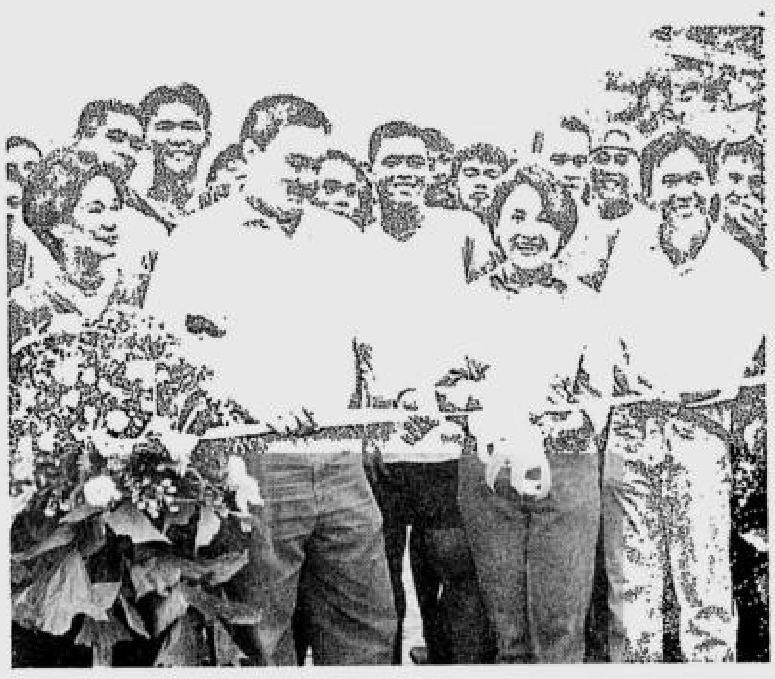
Metro Projects managing director Rey G. Roy (seated, left) and UNO president and chief executive officer Doji B. Lopez forge the marketing and distribution contract for Matrix Internet at a recent trade launch in Makati City. Witnesses to the agreement are Cynthia Oria and Mon Bermudez, UNO product manager and business development officer, respectively. UNO is a private labeler of Internet cards and a noted host of virtual Internet service providers (VISPs) in the country. Matrix was launched to compete with over 37 brands in the estimated P2-billion pre-paid Internet cards market.

Meridian Telekoms joins 4As Advertising Summit

MERIDIAN Telekoms Inc., the country's leader in wireless broadband Internet connectivity, teams up with the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As) for its Advertising Summit from Aug. 29 to 31 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Meridian will be the official technology partner of the 4As for the said event, providing the Advertising Summit delegates with wireless broadband Internet access. Meridian partnered with Microwarehouse Inc., the country's premier distributor of Palm products and top networking equipment, and MDi, the leading systems integrator in the country, for the design and implementation of the registration database and hardware requirements.

The Meridian Internet connection has always been in demand because of its high-speed burstable bandwidths, cost-efficient rates, quick deployment and widest network coverage. Call Merdian at 812-1757 to 59, or e-mail inquiries@meridiantelekoms.com.



SUCCESSFUL VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY

The 2002 Spike Sports Cebu Beach Volleyball Series was officially declared open Aug. 10 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel by Cebu City First Lady Margot Osmena (3rd from left), accompanied by Councilor Sylvan Jakosalem (2nd from left) and Spike Sports president JT Gonzales (4th from left). Also shown is Aissa de la Cruz, Cebu Plaza Hotel PR manager (extreme left) and beach volleyball athletes from all over Cebu. The tournament concluded Aug. 25, and was co-presented by Nestea and Cebu Plaza Hotel. Major sponsors include Rudy Project, General Milling Corp., Grand Cement Manufacturing Corp., Airlift Asia, Garrison Rousseau, the University of Cebu, and Consul Enrique Benedicto.

Auditions for new Asensio-Cayabyab Opera: 'Buwan'

MUSIC Theater Foundation of the Philippines opens the auditions for its forthcoming opera production "Buwan (Juan Luna)" scheduled for the arts month of Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas in February 2003.

The neo-romantic music composed by Ryan Cayabyab to the libretto and lyrics by Fides SC Asensio demands for flexible singer/actors with solid training in classical and pop styles. Of special interest is the search for a 7-year-old boy who will play Luling, Juan Luna's only child.

All interested parties must bring a selection piece from the most recent modern musical theater and one full-size photo on Aug. 31 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the CCP Multipurpose Hall. For more details, call 421-1898 and look for Myla or Gen.

"Buwan (Juan Luna)" will be directed by Alex Cortez and presented by the Opera Guild of the Philippines in cooperation with the Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas.

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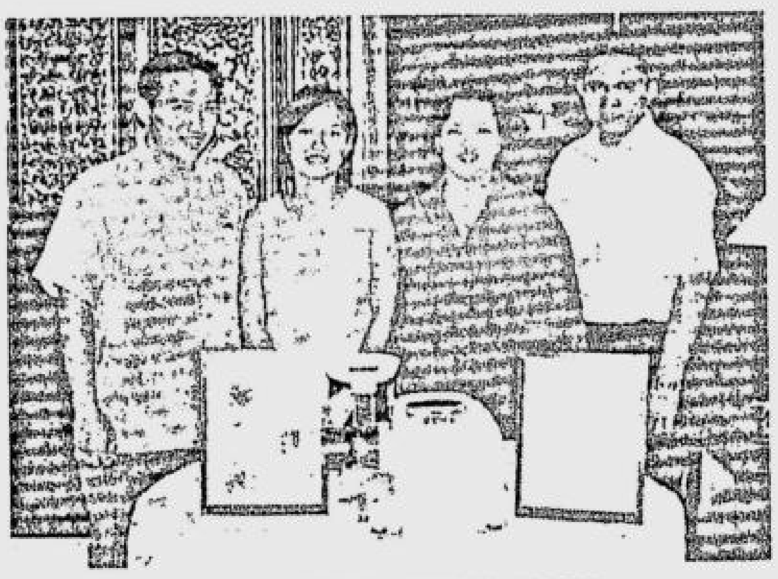
PHILAMLIFE, SBC SIGN AGREEMENT

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the flagship company of the Philam Group and the largest life insurance company in the country controlling 27-percent share of the market has entered into an agreement with Security Bank Corp. to use Security DigiBanker to streamline its corporate cash management activities. Security DigiBanker is the first fully Internet-based and real-time cash management system in the Philippines. Seated (from left) are SBC senior assistant vice president NM Amparo; Philam Life senior vice president Teresita Salonga, SBC senior vice president May Sly and SBC first vice president Manny Narciso.



MATSTONE JUICE EXTRACTORS IN RP

Matstone Juice Extractor, the best juicer for extracting all-natural cancer-fighting fruit and vegetable juice, is now distributed in the Philippines by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises. Shown during the recent opening of In-A-Jiffy Enterprises' third sales office at the seventh floor of Marc2000 Tower, Taft Avenue corner San Andres Street, Malate, Manila are, from left, Mike Sanchez, business development manager, Olive Sanchez, sales and marketing manager, Cris Llamo, operations manager, and Nepthali Llamo, technical manager. The Matstone Juice Extractor is available in all In-A-Jiffy Enterprises sales offices all over Metro Manila.

BITS & Clips

RCDM screens 'K19'

THE ROTARY Club of Makati Dasmarinas (RCMD) will hold a special advance screening of "K19, the Widowmaker" on Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the SM Megamall Cinema 3. The proceeds of the movie premiere go to the charitable projects of RCMD for marginalized communities in the Philippines. Be among the first to watch this movie, currently a big hit in the United States and has been rated +3 for entertainment and acceptability. Limited tickets are available. Call 728-7805 for reservations.

Highlighting good reading habits

THE ANNUAL Philippine Bookfair will once again prove as the country's biggest and most prestigious book exhibition as it opens Aug. 31 until Sept. 8 at the 5th level of the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The event, with the theme "Building Strengths Through Reading" aims to promote the consciousness of books and reading habits among the youth and general public. Belgosa Bookstores Inc, one of the active exhibitors in the event, will promote in its booths good reading habits in early childhood. BBI will also conduct preschool-training seminar "Shared Reading: An Approach to Literacy" on Friday, Sept. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Function B of the Megatrade Hall. For details, call BBI at 817-3869 or 817-3870.

Marinducare 13th year

ON THE 13th anniversary of volunteer social service in the province of Marinduque, the Marinducare will hold an appreciation dinner-dance on Aug. 31, Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City. Nonoy Lopez and his band provide the music. The affair will also serve as a fund-raising project to raise additional funds for the livelihood and socio-economic assistance program for Marinduque. The chairpersons for the year are engineer Eddie Boy Alino, Immigration officer Nydia Sagun, lawyer Greg Madrigal Buhain and CEU professor Rechilda Lumauig Uy. The executive officers are Victor H. Rodriguez, Patria Nepomuceno Jacinto, Romeo Hermoso, Luisita S. Itchon, lawyer Delia Hermoso, Milagros Laguio Querubin and Bernardo Jamilla. Overall chair is Juliet P. Ruiz. For inquiries, call Sandy at 840-1603 and the Marinduque office at (042)332-1130.

Product FILES

CSMC primed and ready at 28

TO REMAIN as the best medical facility in Metro Manila is a skill, which Cardinal Santos Medical Center has perfected. For 28 years, CSMC remained true to its word in providing the best medical attention and services to its patients. Cardinal Rufino J. Santos was the prime figure in the construction of the hospital in 1968. This provision of compassion was held for 14 years by the Daughters of Charity and then later passed to a group called the Hospital Managers Inc.

HMI's desire to continue the Cardinal Santos' legacy is embodied in its pursuit to constantly upgrade its equipment, facilities, medical and non-medical personnel, thus making the hospital a world-class, caring and professional facility.

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RITEMED VISITS SOUTH STAR DRUG

RiteMed continues to strengthen its presence at the drugstore level by tapping one of its key business partners South Star Drug to make RiteMed products available to the public. This was done through a symbolic turnover participated in by RiteMed operations manager Raffy Los Banos (left) and Manuel 'Aboy' Dy, VP for sales and marketing of South Star Drug. Witnessing the event are RiteMed's assistant product manager Roen de Leon (left) and Edwin Nicholas, regional business manager. RiteMed products will be available in all branches of South Star Drug.

BPI Asset Management to share total investment solutions approach

THE ASSET Management and Trust Group (AMTG) of the Bank of the Philippine Islands presented its products and services leading to "Effective Fund Management" to business media and other key stakeholders Aug. 15 at Club 1851 at the BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

On the occasion of the BPI Asset Management Day, AMTG disclosed that it manages portfolios for high-networth individuals and institutions but at the same time offers retail investment products to small individual investors through its Total Investment Solutions Approach. This formula includes performance, people and product and systems support for AMTG's clients.

With over P100 billion in assets managed, BPI Asset Management is the largest player in trust and fiduciary business, leading in all three major trust industry divisions: trust, investment management, and common trust funds. With over 20 percent of the market, AMTG leads the asset management industry with almost double the assets of the bank in second place.

Backed by BPI's more than 150 years of experience in wealth management, BPI Asset Management provides clients with the highest possible returns with lowest possible risk. The group has consistently outperformed industry benchmarks.

With its staff expertise at par with International Fund Management standards, AMTG portfolio managers meet clients regularly on the performance of their funds and brief them on market outlook, new investment outlets and other valuable information.

BPI Asset Management offers four types of investment services which would suit sophisticated investment needs, including corporate and institutional products, personal fund management, unit investment trust funds and other trust and fiduciary services.

BPI Asset Management's global common trust funds (CTF) continues to turn in benchmark-beating performances despite declining interest rates and softening equity markets abroad. Of these CTFs, the BPI Global Philippine Fund registered a year-to-date yield of 5.77 percent per annum as of June 30 this year while the BPI International Fund Plus gave a 5.09-percent return for the same period. In comparison, the benchmark 90-day US Treasury bill stood at 1.76 percent per annum.

DENR-DND AERIAL SEEDING PROJECT

The Tactical Aerial Seeding Reforestation Operation (Tasro) is a joint undertaking of the Department of Environment and the Department of National Defense through the Philippine Air Force under Lt. Gen. Benjamin P. Defensor Jr., AFP-CG PAF, and the Air Reserve Command headed by Brig. Gen. Jaime L. Canatoy, AFP. Implementing the aerial seeding operation is the Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Group (RATSG) led by Col. Ernesto S. Levanza PAFR (JSC) and 3303rd Reserve Air Recon Squadron (Certeza Surveying and Aerophoto Systems Inc) headed by Rhonda Jane B. Certeza, PAFR, RATSG. DENR Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez (center) and (from left) DENR R02 Red Alfredo S. Pascual, Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rodolfo Q. Agbayani, Levanza, Ms Certeza, Capt. Arnold R. Bagamaspad, and 51D CMDG Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, AFP during the launch of the project at Bagabag Airport July 28.

Document Centre

PFX, KODAK SIGN PARTNERSHIP

Fuji Xerox Philippines Inc., the leader in document management innovation, introduced Document Centre C400/C320, the very first color-capable multifunction system in a grand launch Aug. 15 and 16 in the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City. The Document Centre C400/C320 is the newest addition to the wide range of multifunction products of FXP, which provide print, copy, scan and fax functions in a single solution and are priced as affordably as black-and-white systems. Inset, Kodak Philippines country business manager Edilberto Reyes talks on the partnership of Kodak with Fuji Xerox Philippines during contract signing rites Aug. 16. Through this partnership, PFX will provide its Hi-volume Laser Printing Technology for the 'Print N' Mail Service' business of Kodak.

Isap authentication facility starts

THE INSURANCE Security Association of the Philippines (Isap) Authentication Facility opened recently initially in the National Capital Region, said Victoria Roman Flores, Isap president.

LTO offices will have the test run in four designated areas, namely Diliman and the Pilot District Office, both in Quezon City; and the Pasig and Makati LTO offices. D-Tech Management Inc. is the approved service provider to verify the authenticated CTPL policies (or COCs) before a vehicle is registered.

Motor vehicles with a CTPL (compulsory third party liability) are required by law to be registered in order to ensure that third parties in vehicular accidents would be duly indemnified should they suffer or die. However, as of last year, only less than one million insurance policies were reported – while about 3.9 million were registered.

"Some CTPL policies that were accepted by the Land Transportation Office were either fake or duplicate copies of other policies. Or, some companies did not report all their policy issuances to the Insurance Commission," Flores said.

As a result of this, some 2.9 million clients who may have an accident would not be able to make a claim on their policies. Meanwhile, the government lost some P835 million in revenue last year because of this. The non-life insurance industry also lost slightly less than P4 billion worth of premiums last year.

According to Flores, all CTPL motor policies that are processed by the Isap Authentication Facility (a computerized facility which runs on an Oracle database) will be guaranteed to be genuine.

The endeavor was done with the support of Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis and Asec LTO Chief Gen. Roberto Lastimoso, the latter of whom had been spearheading efforts to eradicate graft and corruption for the benefit of the government treasury and the insuring public.

CRUZ

POLTAN

DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISIT

The Rotary Club of Makati-Legazpi welcomes today, Aug. 29, to its regular club meeting the District governor of Rotary International District 3830 Romeo 'Romy' V. Cruz. The Rotary governor will be welcomed by RC Makati-Legazpi's president Rodelo 'Rod' Poltan and his officers and directors for this Rotary year at Café Maestro, Nicanor Garcia (Reposo) Street, Makati City. He will review the plans and programs of the Rotary Club. The members of RC Makati-Legazpi will also mark their 13th year as a Rotary Club today.

PHPC gets ISO certified

PHPC Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Hitachi Plant Engineering Co. of Japan, boosted its stock as one of the country's leading mechanical and electrical contractors, when it was recently awarded and certified ISO 9001-2000 by TUV Management Service, a certification body based in Germany.

The award/certification recognizes PHPC's quality management system. PHPC has been doing business here for the past 12 years. It is active in the construction of semiconductor companies.

"The company's vast experience in modern construction and the technology transfer from Japanese consultants to Filipino engineers had helped strengthen our craft," noted former Rep. Victorico L. Chaves, PHPC chair.

PHPC president Harumichi Kojima revealed that "it is our (company's) vision to become globally competitive (in the construction industry) and the (ISO 9001-2000) recognition has spurred us to acquire an integrated management system focusing on environmental safety, occupational safety and health through an ISO 14001 and 18001 accreditation."

Philippine Airlines

AIA-HINOKI HONORS OUTSTANDING PRODUCERS

Aia-Hinoki Clinical Inc. celebrated its third anniversary recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel with a gathering of its officials, sales office and staff. The affair also served as a venue for recognition of its outstanding sales personnel. Shown is Mercy Austria (Lucena), rookie director of the year (center), holding the PAL ticket to Hong Kong as part of her prize. She is flanked by (from left) Teddy B. Gutierrez, president, Koizumi, board chair, Hideharu Fujii, director, Jose Fregil, director, and Neri F. Buensuceso, executive vice president.

BITS Clips

Wiseguys perform at SWI Pasay

TODAY, Slimmers World Pasay Road celebrates a lifestyle and beauty party tagged Hot Health and Beauty "Keep Fit Beyond Reason". To hype this activity, Slimmers World Pasay Road offers free medical assistance such as bone scanning by Nestle Calcium Plus, cholesterol check and ECG by Pfizer, breast examination by the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, dental check-up by Perfect Smile, and blood sugar examination by AeroMed. Wiseguys serenades all guests with good music. Visit the Slimmers World Building at 1032 Arnaiz Avenue corner Hernandez Street (across Dusit Hotel). To avail yourself of big discounts call 887-1333 or 887-1292 and look for Jacquie and Nina.

Toyem's Gabi ng Parangal

IT'S ANOTHER big day for the youth of Marikina City as this year's Ten Most Outstanding Young Employees of Marikina (Toyem) awardees are announced on Aug. 31. Now on its 3rd year, the Toyem Awards are given annually to exemplary young workers in Marikina City aged 18 to 20 years old. Individual citations are given to outstanding young professionals employed in general manufacturing, restaurant, local government, civic and religious, wholesale and retail trade, academe, shoe manufacturing, and hospital and healthcare. Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando delivers the keynote address in Toyem's Gabi ng Parangal. Toyem is an undertaking of MMA Media Inc, and co-sponsored by Medic One Step Urine Pregnancy Test, Vicks Thermometer, NBC-DZAR, Angel Radyo, Joey@92.3 Rhythms, and David's Salon, among others. The Gabi ng Parangal will be held at the ballroom of the Riverbend Hotel and Convention Center along Bonifacio Street, Barangka, Marikina City.

A teamup for eHR Summit 2002

INFOSTRUCTURE Systems & Consulting Corp. one of the country's pioneer and leading IT innovators, and Microsoft Philippines, will be holding its annual HR event today at the Shangri-La Makati ballroom Manila A and B, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The two-session event, dubbed eHR Summit 2002, highlights "Managing People & Knowledge in the New Economy" in the morning and "Transforming HR into eHR" in the afternoon session. The morning session's roster of presenters include Dr. Serafin Talisayon, professor at UP Diliman Technology Management Center and newspaper columnist, Mae Linaac, HR systems manager at Del Monte Philippines, Susan Alcala, VP for HR of Bank of Commerce, and Noel Baviera, VP for HR operations of Standard Chartered Bank. For more information, call 892-3325 or 893-8844.

Product FILES

Champola now in kiddie size

CHAMPOLA, the country's first and original wafer stick, can now be enjoyed in its kiddie size, Champola Supreme. It comes in three delicious flavors: chocolate, strawberry, and mocca. It's small in size, but big in taste that your kids will surely love. Distributed by Fair Sun Consolidated Inc., Champola also comes in boxes in five flavors: strawberry, white chocolate, chocolate, Choco Best and mocca.

CGIC ANNIVERSARY

Deputy Commissioner Vida T. Chiong (2nd from left) of the Insurance Commission and Levy P. Laus (left), chair and chief executive officer of Corporate Guarantee and Insurance Co Inc. (CGIC) pose for a souvenir shot during the fifth anniversary celebration of CGIC last month at the Yats International Wine Club in Clark Field, Pampanga. Also shown, (from right), are Ruben Rubio, president of Ultramar Reinsurance Brokers Inc., Julie Duenas, chief, field examination division, and Ester Abrazado, chief, rating division, both of the Insurance Commission, and Gilbert M. Fernandez, CGIC vice president. CGIC is one of the most dynamic non-life insurance firms in the country today and is a member of the Laus Group of Companies.

Little Caesars
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AUGUST 7, 200

DOUBLE PIZZA TREAT FROM PAOLO

Popular TV host Paolo Bediones signed a contract with Asiafood Corp. Aug. 7 as pizza restaurant Little Caesars' new endorser. Paolo will appear on print ads, posters and other collaterals featuring Little Caesars' Pizza!Pizza! campaign, 'Dobleng Pizza sa Presyo ng Isa.' Shown, from left, are Paolo's talent manager Jacob Fernandez, Paolo, VP for CorPlan of RFM Corp. Ramon Lopez, and LC operations manager Jerome Tuguin.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that GOLDCREST PAWNSHOP located 4134 R. Magsaysay Blvd Sta. Mesa Manila will move to its new location at 4096 R. Magsaysay Blvd Sta. Mesa Manila and under our new name GOLDCREST PAWNSHOP CO. LTD.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late John S. Rosado Sr., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per extrajudicial settlement with WAIVER Doc. No. 100, Page No. 21, Book No. II, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jose C. Cahila of Makati
PDI- Aug. 22,29, Sept 5, 2002

PERSONAL

HAPPY BDAY GUY SMILEY!!
LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
Big Big Huuuuuuuggs! :)

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, Great invirtue, Rich in Miracle, Near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have resourced from the depth of my heart and humbly beg great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present & most urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known & cause you to be invoked, St. Jude pray for us and all you invoke thy aid.
(Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.) R.E.I.

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Email: remarkstrat@yahoo.com (attach scanned photo to resumé)

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- Must have excellent work habits
- Willing to work and stay in Subic

Interested parties may send their 2x2 picture and resume to:

Hokei Subic Corporation
Human Resource Department
#40 Golden Future Street corner Aim High Avenue
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell various Scrap Materials such as ***USED ELEVATOR, COOLING COIL, FIRE EXTINGUISHER, Etc.*** located at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila and at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 AM on **September 11, 2002** at Room MR-2C, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested parties may inspect the items at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila and at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer, Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 110, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-8786.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 29, 2002)

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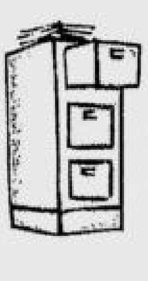

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

..... absent from the body, present with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:8

ANTONIO KONG KIAT M.D.

of Solano, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 25, 2002 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Fema**; daughters **Ma. Cristina, Ma. Almira & Ma. Tonife, Mama Jacinta**; brothers and sisters; brothers and sisters-in-law, his nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. He will be laid to rest at the Heritage Memorial Park on Saturday, August 31, 2002 after the 1:30 pm Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the
Second Death Anniversary
of our Dearly Beloved

DANIEL POLICARPIO GO

(March 19, 1935 - August 29, 2000)

We, **Bobbie, Erwin & Eda, Chee & Lito, Jade, Sam & Bea**, request all his cousins, relatives, friends and pious reader to join us in prayer for the eternal rest of his soul.

JUNNIPHER JOE MANGABAT

Passed away at a New Jersey Hospital on August 26, 2002 at the age of 33.

The only son of **Capt. and Mrs. Jose Mangabat**
Beloved brother of **Jeanette and Jorica**

Junnie, as he is fondly called has lived his life to the fullest and he will be dearly missed by those whose lives he has touched one way or the other.

Interment will be on Friday, August 30, 2002 at the St. Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia, New Jersey, U.S.A.

May we request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ENGR. ALEJO DE FRANCIA RIVERA

June 5, 1928 - August 27, 2002

Papa peacefully joined his Creator on August 27, 2002.

Beloved husband of **Naring**, devoted father of **Mon** and **Marissa Fernandez, Nilo** and **Bernadette Chincuanco, Romel** and **Tina Lopez, Martin** and **Mitchibu Rivera** and **Giovanni** and **Alma Yu**, loving grandfather of **Carlos, Miguel, Bianca, Paco, Margaux** and **Mariana, Jolo** and **Beatriz, Marixi** and **Niccolo**, cherished brother of **Pilar, Veronica, Adeling, Boy** and **Mina**.

The celebration of his life will be held at St. Jerome Emiliani Church at Alabang, Muntinlupa City from August 27, 2002 to August 31, 2002.

Following his cremation in the morning of Sunday, September 1, 2002, his remains will be transferred to the Lower Chapel of St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

The funeral Mass, Necrological Services and Interment rites will be on Sunday, September 1, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at St. James the Great Church.

Our Beloved ***Mamang Sayong***

ROSARIO ALCANTARA ALFILER

(September 4, 1911 - August 27, 2002)
Peacefully joined the Creator and our equally beloved
Papang Dolfo, Filadelfo B. Alfiler

Her bereaved children in **Abra, Norma** and Francisco Adriatico, **Ricardo** and Delia; in ***Legaspi City***, **Romulo** and **Josefa**; in ***San Jose, California, USA***, **Rolando** and Norma (†), **Alda** and Joseph Parado, **Victor** and Lydia; and in ***Las Piñas City***, **Dr. Carmelo "Mike"** and **Dr. Concepcion "Connie"**; grandchildren *Mary June, Jojo, Febian, Badette, Majo, Remus, Regina, Roshelle* and *Adolfo*; great grandchildren; and all dear relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Interment will follow the Eucharistic Celebration at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 1, 2002.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding for the supply of labor, materials, tools and technical supervision for the replacement of lighting fixtures of the Records Room, Basement, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex per BSP Scope of Works and Specifications which may be secured from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 213, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 5252493; 5248229.

Interested bidders/contractors must submit/comply with the following requirements:

1) Must have a permanently employed Registered Electrical Engineer with at least three (3) years experience in the electrical installation; and
2) Must submit proof that the firm has been engaged in electrical installation (Job Order/Contract).

The above requirements, together with the photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes), shall be submitted to the Administrative Services Department at the abovementioned address not later than **September 13, 2002**.

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration papers;
2) Year 2001 duly Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet with a networth of at least P500,000.00 and Income Statement);
3) Business Licenses/Permit as Electrical Contractor;
4) Year 2001 Income Tax Return; and
5) Company History/Profile.

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Director

(PDI -- Aug. 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 924-3119; 924-7971; 924-7977
Telefax No. 924-7973

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) would like to invite interested suppliers, manufacturers, printers, motor vehicle repair shops, office equipment repair shop, hardware store, and security and janitorial agencies for its continuing accreditation for CY 2002.

List of Requirements for Accreditation:

a. Name of company/business, address, telephone/fax number and year of incorporation/year business was established.
b. Incorporation papers from the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or from the Bureau of Domestic Trade and Industry for single proprietorship.
c. Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Tax Clearance.
d. Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Certificate.
e. Latest audited financial statements 2001 (balance sheets and profit and loss statements).
f. Track record (list of customer references and their address).
g. Certified Xerox copy of the latest Business/License Permit.
h. Certified Xerox copy of the latest Court Clearance.
i. List of Bank references.
j. Certified Xerox Copy of latest DOLE clearance - additional requirement for security and janitorial agencies.
k. Latest SSS Clearance - additional requirement for security and janitorial agencies.
l. List of equipment owned - additional requirement for security and janitorial agencies.
m. Certificate of Registration and Clearance with no pending complaint from the PNP - additional requirement for Security agencies only.

Bidding for motor vehicle repair, printing, hardware, laboratory, office supplies and equipment and other services starting **15 September 2002** shall be participated in only by accredited suppliers.

Applications for accreditation are requested to be submitted at the following address: The NMIC-BAC, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. Nos. **921-4473; 924-3119.**

(Sgd.) **DR. MINDA S. MANANTAN**
Chairperson, NMIC-BAC

(PDI - Aug. 29, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting printers and security printers to bid on the following packages:

Package 1 : Printing of PEPT Test Booklets
Budget Allocation P 4,000,000.00

Package 2 : Printing of Achievement Test' Test Booklets (TB) and Delivery and Retrieval of TBs and Answer Sheet
Budget Allocation P 17,000,000.00

Package 3 : Printing of Non-Classified Materials: PEPT Examiner's Handbook, Annual Report and Research Related Documents, Achievement Test Examiner's Handbook and Answer Matrix Sheet
Budget Allocation P 1,115,000.00

All interested bidders must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **August 30, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 12, 2002**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **September 26, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary
Co-Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Rehiyon Building 5, Lungsod ng Naga
City Address: Panganiban Drive, Naga City
Tel Nos. 4732882, 4732090; 4738067, 8111139, 4732882(TeleFAX)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the National Irrigation of Administration (NIA) Regional Office No. 5, Panganiban Drive, Naga City invites contractors with experience of similar contracts and Medium "A" classification to apply for eligibility and submit bid for the Construction of Diversion Works of Pinangapugan CIP, Uson, Masbate with approved POW of P7,979,401.36 as follows:

Particulars	Unit	Quantity
I. Diversion Works		
1. 211 kg/sq.cm. Reinf. Concrete	cu.m.	375
2. Rubble Masonry	cu.m	1,463.50
3. Cofferdam and Dewatering	cu.m.	570
4. 76 cm. Dia RCP	lin.m.	28
5. Structure Excavation (Mech)	cu.m.	1,025
6. Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	1,410
7. Structure Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	386
8. Filter Drain Bed	cu.m.	133
9. Mob. & Demob.	proj.	1
10. Project Bunkhouse	unit	1

The proposed work to be undertaken shall include furnishing labor, materials and equipments necessary to complete the project in 240 calendar days.

Submission of documents to apply for eligibility shall be on *August 26-30, 2002* and eligibility forms are also available on same time and date at the office of BAC Chairman during office hours.

Bid and Tender Documents shall be available to eligible contractors on *September 9-13, 2002* at the office of BAC Chairman upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00

Pre-bidding conference is scheduled on *September 18, 2002*, at the NIA Regional Office, Naga City.

The Public bidding shall be conducted on *October 4, 2002* at *9:00 am* at the Conference Room, NIA Regional Office, Naga City.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive my defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

CEZAR F. GARCIA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 29, 2002)

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Tels 747-8559 747-8509 • Telefax 641-1700
AUREA QUIOQUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B Fernandez Ave Dagupan City Pangasinan
Tels (0755) 522-3451 522-2129 (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue Quezon City Tel 732-0309 732-1035
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Cebu Branch A S Fortuna Street Banilad Mandaue City Cebu
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Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City Tels 231-0721 231-3192
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Tels 2812063 2813034 2810522
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No 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension Pasig City, Tels 641-7900, 641-1735
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Economy seen weathering oil spike

THE PHILIPPINE economy should be able to weather the current spike in crude oil prices provided they did not rise above $30 a barrel for any significant period, a top economic official said yesterday.

Oil prices surged to their highest levels in four months to within a whisker of $28 a barrel on Tuesday after US Vice President Dick Cheney made the White House's most forceful case yet for military action against Iraq.

"We're maintaining the GDP (gross domestic product) target of 4 to 4.5 percent this year, even if we reach the worst case scenario of $30 per barrel," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas told AFP.

Economic projections under this "worst-case scenario" showed that inflation would still average 3.6 percent this year and that foreign exchange rates would fluctuate around normal levels, Canlas said.

But if oil prices exceeded $30 a barrel for a sustained period, that would be "another story," said Canlas, adding the government would be forced to come up with new economic projections.

This week, local oil companies raised the prices of socially sensitive liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) because of the increase in crude prices.

Last week, Energy Secretary Vince Perez warned the rise in international crude prices could trigger another round of local fuel price hikes.

"The price of oil has been volatile in past days in reaction to different international events. Any increase in world oil prices could affect our domestic prices given that the country sources its oil requirements abroad," Perez said.

Imported oil accounted for 13 percent of electricity generated in the country in the first half, down from 19 percent from the same period last year, government figures showed.

The government has lessened its reliance on oil for power generation following the opening of the Malampaya offshore natural gas field late last year. *AFP*

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See flyers for details!

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

We're cooking!

CHEF Reggie Aspiras shows Vangie Baga-Reyes (center) and Cathy Babao-Guballa how to stuff a chicken.

With culinary goddess Reggie Aspiras no less as our mentor, we ventured to what for many of us was unexplored territory

Story and more photos on page C2

CCS

Where the best bakeshop owners and cake decorators are trained from

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MS. AVELINA CARBUNGCO FLORENDO introduced cake decorating technique in the Philippines the *WILTON WAY*, the *AUSTRALIAN* way of making gumpaste flowers with very fine strings and lace on fondant, the *ENGLISH* way or LAMBETH *WORK* of overpiped scrolls and strings of very tiny flowers, the SWISS *CHOCOLATE TECHNIQUE* and *GUMPASTE DOLL* course. She and her son Jun, introduced the latest technique which they learned in Telford, York & London, British Sugar craft and The International Cake Exploration Societe, August 24-28, 2002 at Nasville, Tennessee, U. S. A.

1) Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5 / 8:30 am - 5 pm - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P7,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. *Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10*

2) Sept. 6 - P7,500 - Learn to make your own doll mold.

3) Sept. 7 - NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND COOKIES - P2,500. Cooked Carrot Cake, Banana Cake, Peanut Butter Cookies, Coconut Cookies, Choco-Chip Cookies, Chocolate Nut Cookies, Hopia, Siopao. *Next schedule: Oct. 12*

4) Sept. 9, 10, 11, 12 / 8:30 am - 5pm - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING - P7,500. New method of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilling, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. *Next schedule: Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17*

5) Sept. 14 - LEARN SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000. Banana Cake, Apple Almond Cake, Chocolate Walnut Cookies, Carrot Cake, All Wheat Bread & Raisin Bread. *Next schedule: Oct. 19*

6) Sept. 18 / 8am - 5pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS & RIBBONS - P3,000. Next schedule: Oct. 23

7) Sept. 16, 17, 18, 19 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P3,500 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling 2) Rose, Catleya, Cymbidium 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies. 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes

8) Sept. 16, 17, 18, 19 / 8 am - 5 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P9,500. 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies and *Oct. 21, 22, 23, 24*

9) Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20 / 8am - 5pm - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4-Day Course - P10,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in Cold Porcelain *Oct. 22 -25*

10) Sept. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 - SPECIAL BAKING - P10,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration.

11) Sept. 21 - DRAGEE & RIBBON MAKING - P3,000. Make your own edible dragees pearl, silver, gold & any color, ribbon of any size using new textured rollers.

13) Sept. 21 & 28 - Whole Day/Two Saturdays Lesson - COLD PORCELAIN MANNEQUINS - P10,500. Learn our latest technique in making large dolls *Oct. 19 & 26*

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ASIAN CURRY CLASS

The month of September is teeming with curry recipes from pork to lamb to chicken to vegetables and other delectable cuisines from different Asian countries like India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center. Highlight of the course will be a demonstration and some helpful tips and techniques in preparing and baking whole wheat breads called Roti by guest Master Chef Sita Rama. There are more equally exciting courses offered at the Maya Kitchen, so check out the schedules below and enroll now.

Asian Curry: Sept. 7 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Makhani Chicken (Butter Chicken Curry); Vegetable Korma (Mixed Vegetables Curry), Pineapple Seafood Curry in Red or Green Curry Sauce; Pork in Yellow Sauce Curry; Rich Coconut Beef Curry. Special feature: Roti, Chapati, Paratha Breads. P1,000

OTHER ONE-DAY SPECIALS

Baking with Institutional Mixes: Sept. 7 (Sat) 2 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road), Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Hotdog on Stick, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. Bonus: Chocolate Rhumballs. P500.

Japanese Cooking: Sept. 14 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted Sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800.

Bakery & Bakeshop: Sept. 21 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500

Barbeque & Grills: Sept. 21 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Different marinating and grilling techniques with lamb, chicken, pork, beef and seafood using special concocted sauces. Recipes: Tandoori Chicken with Mint and Yogurt Sauce, Tandoori Prawns, Grilled Squid with Cilantro Sauce, Honey Roasted Porkchop, Barbeque Pork Spareribs, Barbeque Beef Steak by Master Chef Sita Rama. P1,000

Bake & Sell Snacks: Sept. 28 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Empanada (fried and baked), Garlic Beef Muffins, Chicken Tarts, Sausage Pie, Mini Calzone, Stuffed Pizza. P750

CERTIFICATE COURSES (Pre-registration required)

***Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking)** For Career Cooks:* Sept. 4-6 or 18-20 (W-F) 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc. applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500.

Baking I (Basic): Sept. 4-6 or 18-20 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000

***Cooking I (Basic)** For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners:* Sept. 10-13 or 24-27 (T-F) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,200.

Restaurant Operations: Sept. 13 & 14 (F-S) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, and restaurant works, menu presentation of new popular restaurant, proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P2,000.

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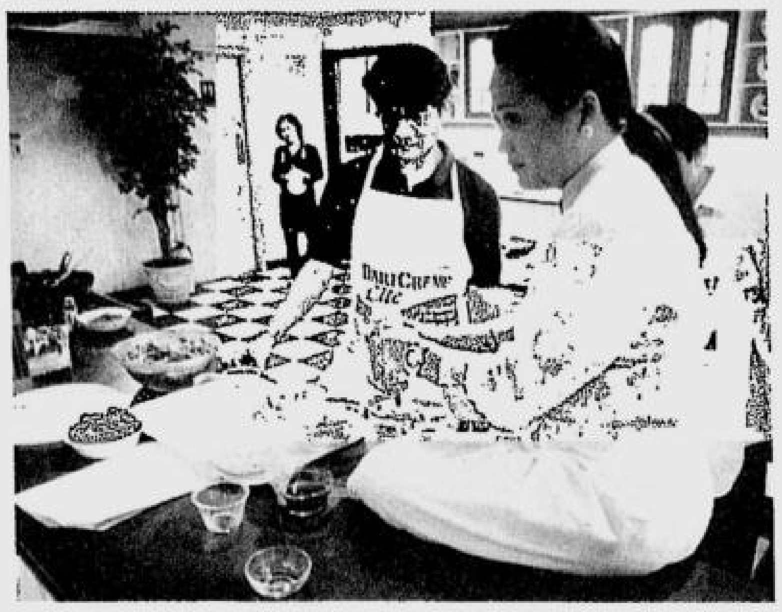
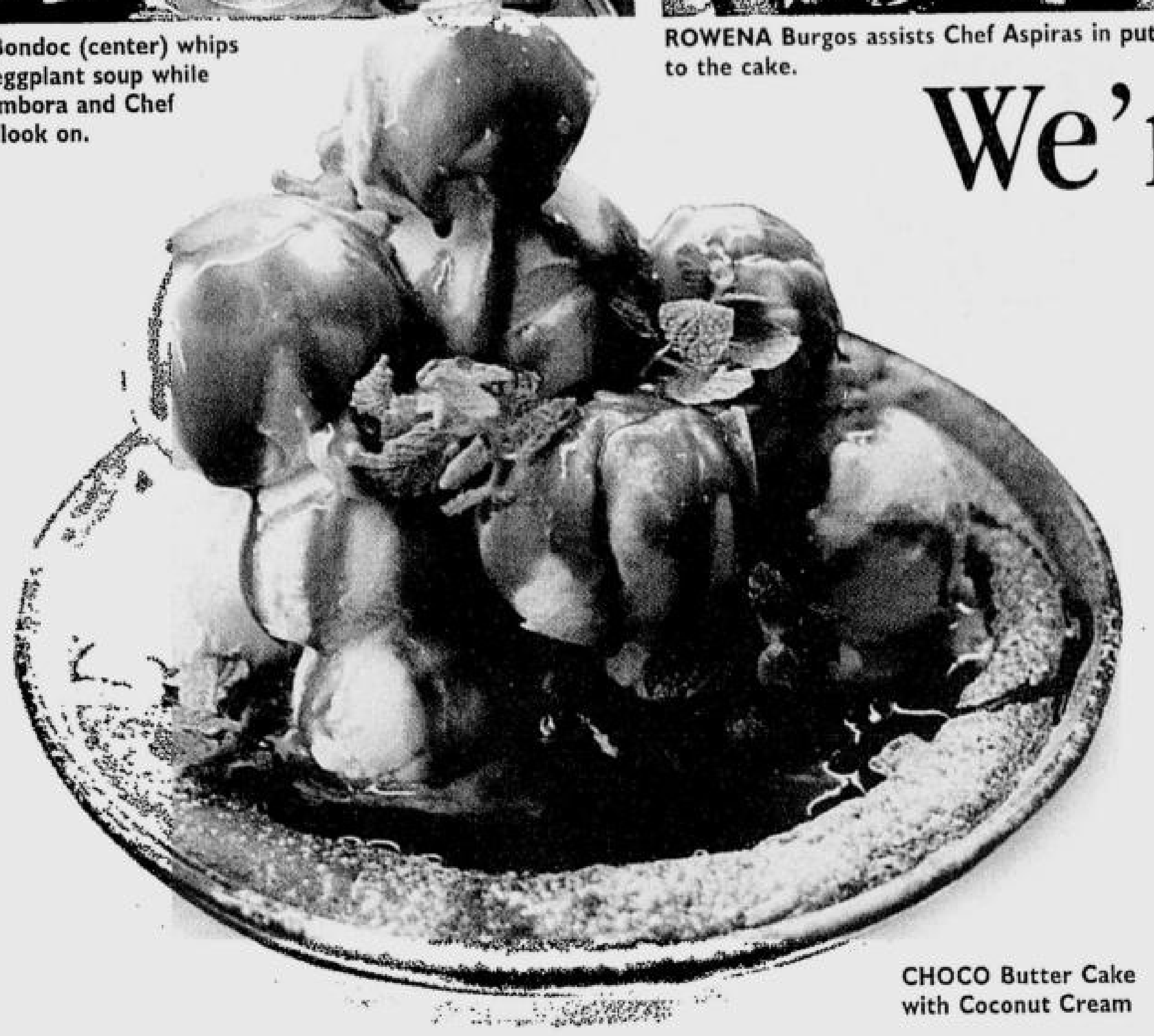
BELLE Bondoc (center) whips up the eggplant soup while Anne Jambora and Chef Aspiras look on.

ROWENA Burgos assists Chef Aspiras in putting the final touch to the cake.


CONSTANTINO Tejero helps Chef Aspiras in preparing the fruit salad.

We're cooking!

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan


CHOCO Butter Cake with Coconut Cream

LIFESTYLE has covered just about every event that deals with food. From food tastings, cooking demos, restaurant launchings to food festivals. Name it, we've seen (and written about) it. But for the first time last week, the Lifestyle staff had a chance to don aprons, clutch the *sandok* and face sizzling pots and pans.

In short, we did the cooking ourselves with help from renowned chef and culinary teacher Reggie Aspiras. To be honest about it, with lots and lots and lots of help from Reggie.

Under Reggie's watchful eyes, seven of us tried our hands at whipping up five dishes, namely Cream of Eggplant and Roasted Capsicum Soup, Fruit Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing, Roasted Stuffed Chicken with Pear and Honey Gravy, Pistachios and Golden Raisin Pilaf and Choco Butter Cake with Coconut Cream (see recipes on page C3). Not too shabby a menu for a bunch of rookies, I must say.

We cooked these delectable dishes at the spacious, stylish and spanking clean kitchen of the San Miguel Food Group in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. The kitchen, where most major cooking demos are held, is maintained by Helene Pontejos, culinary services manager of SMFG.

Uninitiated

What made the experience interesting was that for most of us, the kitchen was unexplored territory.

Take Belle Bondoc, 23, single. Right off the bat, she confided that she still has to cook a perfect sunny side-up egg. She was assigned to fix the soup along with Anne Jambora, also single.

Both got over-excited whipping the broth they forgot to regulate the fire. It was raging underneath, causing the soup to boil up the pot's lid instead of the letting it calmly simmer and ensure the soup's rich, creamy flavor.

Remember the stuffed chicken earlier mentioned? Well, it was assigned to this writer and fellow reporter Cathy Babao-Guballa. The instruction was to simply stuff the chicken with the prepared filling through the posterior. We did just that, or so we thought.

When Reggie, who left momentarily to check out the gravy, returned, she freaked out when she saw what we had done. The chicken was practically bursting at the seams. We had tried to put everything in and that caused the opening to tear wider than desired, making it hard to sew it back.

Luckily, her assistant, Julius, made some damage control and, like a skilled obstetrician, performed episiotomy on the poor chicken with strings and, well, toothpicks.

Light and fun

Thank God Reggie has an infectious way of turning a cooking session into a playful learning experience. Not only does Reggie treat cooking as an art where the key ingredients are imagination and creativity, she also espouses that cooking should be fun, fast and easy. We started to dirty our hands past 11 a.m. and finished just before 1 p.m.

We began with the salad, which was light, healthy, quick and easy to prepare (those are the key words here: "easy to prepare"). In a bowl, Reggie tossed the oranges, watermelon, melon, avocado and watercress. To do the dressing, she picked Tino Tejero, a reporter proficient in writing about the arts and the cinema but who had yet to prove himself in the culinary arts. Reggie asked him to pour into the jar all the liquid ingredients and shake it "to the tune of 'La Bamba.'"

Tino then poured the mixture into the fruit bowl. It was served to us right away. It tasted sooo good and, no question about it, the credit should go to... Reggie.

Watching Reggie as she moved around with confidence and grace in the San Miguel kitchen left us with no doubt that we were in very good hands. Not only is Reggie a chef de cuisine, she is also a cake designer, food writer, food stylist, gourmet food caterer, restaurant and catering consultant, chocolate and confectionary artist, and specialized instructor. Included in her wide and impressive repertoire are Italian, French, Mediterranean, Asian, Fusion, Macrobiotic (anti-cancer), Cardio Healthy Heart and Diabetic Cuisine.

Helpful hints

With amazing grace and speed, she whipped up the five dishes, teaching us all the while that each recipe was never meant to be followed to the letter, that, in a bind, chicken can be quick-cooked on the stovetop instead of leaving it in the oven, that extra-virgin olive oil should always be used for salad dressing, etc.

Here are a few more tasteful tips we picked up from Reggie:

- For the fruit salad, you should pick not just the leaves of the watercress, but also the stalks. Once you picked them, leave them in an ice-cold water to prevent it from wilting. If you intend them for future use, keep it in an airtight plastic container.
- Wrap any excess stuffing for the chicken in a foil and bake it. You can use it for garnishing.
- For stuffed chicken, don't use native

WE'RE/ p.C3

WELCOMES
Chef Reggie Aspiras
&
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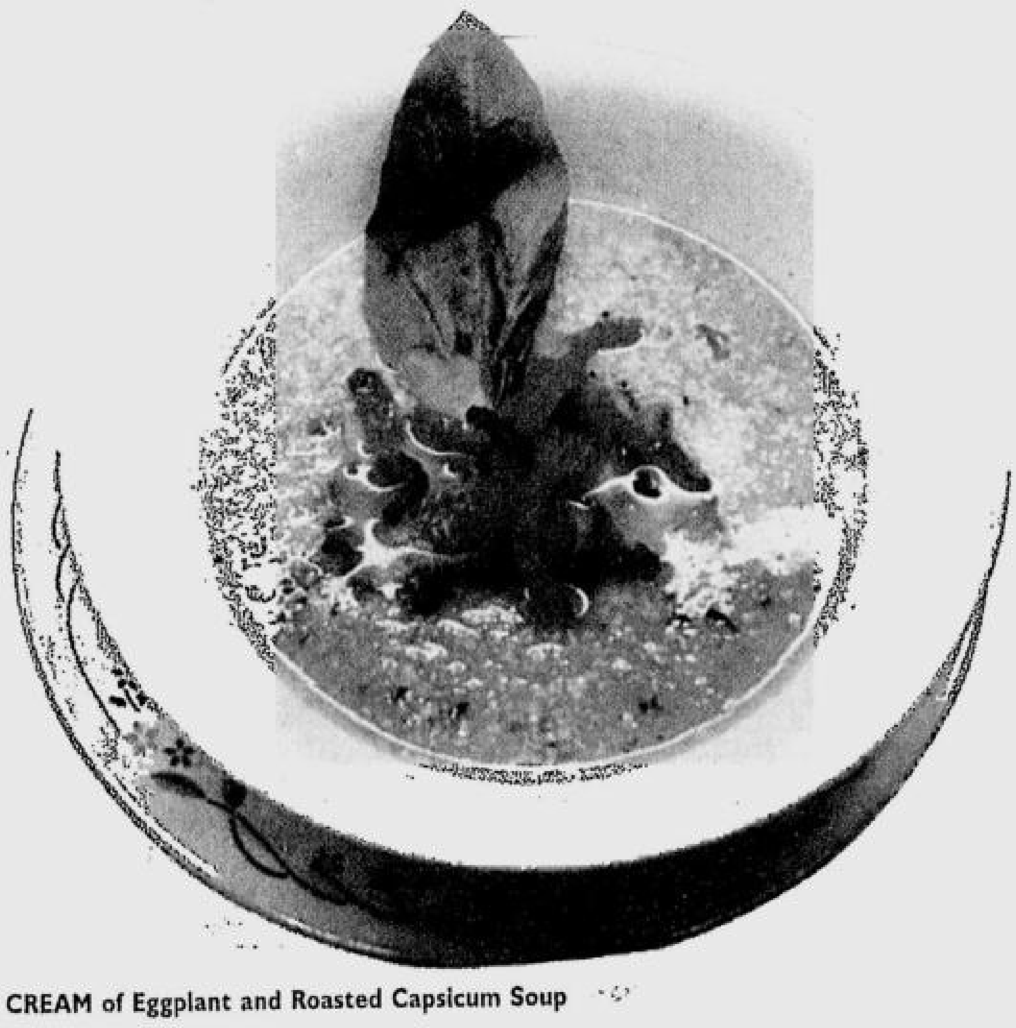
CREAM of Eggplant and Roasted Capsicum Soup

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CHEF Reggie Aspiras with the Lifestyle staff (from left) Anne Jambora, Cathy Babao-Guballa, Vangie Baga-Reyes, Constantino Tejero, Helene Pontejos of SMFG, Chelo Banal-Formoso, Rowena Burgos and Belle Bondoc

Gold
Quickmelt!

CHEF Aspiras with San Miguel Food Group staff Manny Parba, Maricel Manalo, Carrie Madrid, Rowena Balanga, Helene Pontejos, Martin del Prado, Rene Ruz and Reggie's assistant, Julius

We're cooking!

From page C2

chicken because its flesh is tough and hard to oven-bake. Native chicken is better for soup like *tinola* or *sinampalukan*.

- Before baking the chicken, make sure you cut the ends or tips because they dry up easily and don't look presentable.

Back to the dishes, Reggie decided to do the raisin pilaf herself. To prepare a pilaf, according to her, you need a rice that is "*buhaghag*," meaning, the grains don't stick to each other. The rice is cooked in a broth covered and simmered for a few minutes until it is tender. She then tossed in raisins, scallion greens and pistachios into the rice before seasoning it with salt and pepper.

Decadent

Finally, for the dessert, desk person Weng Burgos helped out in preparing choco butter cake, which must be, well, under-baked because it was supposed to be a soft, moist cake. The cake was made all the more devilish when Reggie topped it with scoops of vanilla ice cream, then laced with chocolate syrup and peppermint just before it was served.

By the time we finished the dessert, the chicken was roasted to golden perfection. To our surprise, it didn't bear any trace of having been violated by two inexperienced pairs of hands. It was presented in an elegant platter garnished with slices of apples and pears, with stuffing to spare.

The funniest thing was that while we helped ourselves shamelessly to the wonderful lunch that we prepared, Reggie preferred to eat rice with Purefoods corned beef and Monterey Chicken Cordon Bleu.

At the end of the day, we realized that although a cooking class can be fun with someone like Reggie Aspiras for a mentor, the ritual of cooking is an entirely different experience from writing about food. We got the message, Reggie—we'll stick to the latter.

ROAST Chicken with Pear and Honey Gravy

FRUIT Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing

Recipes

Cream of Eggplant and Roasted Capsicum Soup

1 kg eggplants
½ kg big red capsicums (bell peppers)
¼ c olive oil
2 medium onions, chopped
1 medium leek, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced crosswise (white and pale green parts only, about 2 c)
6 large garlic cloves, minced
8 ½ c chicken stock or canned low-salt chicken broth
3 tbsp tomato paste
¼ c chopped fresh basil
2 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
3 tbsp unsalted Magnolia Gold
1 1/2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
Purefoods Honey Cured Bacon, crispy fried

Pre-heat oven to 450°F. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Pierce eggplants all over with fork. Transfer, cut side down to baking sheet. Roast until tender (about 45 mins). Cool slightly. Remove peel and discard. Cut eggplants into large pieces. Rinse eggplant pieces under running water. Drain well. Set aside.

Char bell peppers over gas flame or in broiler until blackened on all sides. Enclose in paper bag for 10 mins. Peel, seed and coarsely chop peppers.

Heat oil in large pot over medium-high heat. Add onions and leek and sauté until tender (about 5 mins). Add garlic, sauté for 1 min. Stir in eggplant, peppers, chicken stock, and tomato paste. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium

RECIPES/ p.C4

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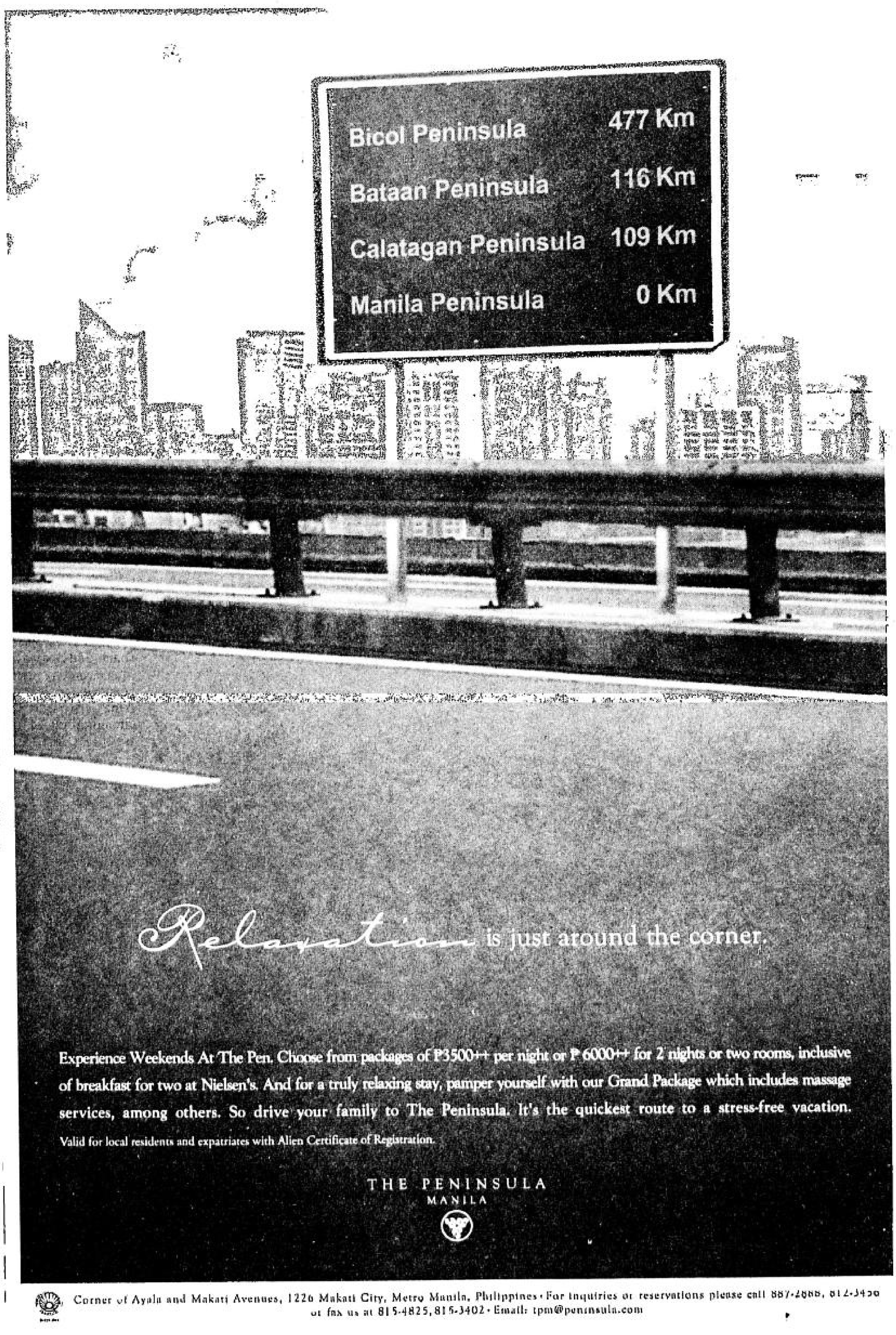

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Recipes

From page C3

and simmer uncovered until vegetables are tender, about 45 mins. Stir in basil and thyme. Cool slightly.

Working in batches, purée soup in blender until smooth. Return soup to pot. Season with salt and pepper. Add butter and lemon juice, stir over low heat until soup is heated through, about 5 mins. Cover and chill. Bring to simmer before continuing. Transfer to a large bowl, garnish with bacon bits.

Fruit Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing

2 oranges, peeled, sliced and quartered
1 watermelon, balled
1 melon, balled
1 avocado, cubed
Watercress

Poppy seed dressing:
1/3 c sugar
1 tsp salt
Mustard
1/3 c wine vinegar
2 tsp onion juice
1 c olive oil
1 ½ tbsp poppy seed

Dissolve the sugar, salt and mustard in the vinegar, Add the onion juice and oil. Beat until the dressing is well-blended. Stir in the poppy seed and shake well.

Roast Chicken with Pear and Honey Gravy

Glaze:
4 c pear purée
2 c port
½ c Magnolia Gold butter
½ c honey
1 ½ tsp minced fresh sage or ½ tsp dried rubbed sage
2 x 1.5 kg Magnolia Chicken

Gravy:
¼ c pear
2 c chicken stock or canned low-salt broth
¼ c all-purpose flour
3 tbsp unsalted Magnolia Gold butter

For glaze:
Boil all ingredients in heavy, large saucepan until reduced to 2 c, for about 40 minutes.

For chicken and gravy:
Preheat oven to 450°F. Place chicken on rack in roasting pan. Season with salt and pepper. Make stuffing. Bake covered with foil. After an hour, baste with glaze. Make gravy. Serve with salad.

Stuffing:
340 g egg bread, cubed (about 8 ½ c)
½ tbsp olive oil
3 c sliced leeks (white and pale green parts only, about 6 leeks)
225 g Italian sausage, casing removed
1 c chopped celery
½ tbsp sugar
1 tbsp dried thyme, crumbled
½ tsp dried rubbed sage
½ c dried currants
1 egg, beaten to blend

Pistachios and Golden Raisin Pilaf

¼ c finely chopped onion
¼ tsp turmeric
1/8 tsp ground cardamom
1 ½ tsp unsalted Magnolia Gold butter
1/3 c long-grain rice
2/3 c chicken broth
2 tbsp pistachio nuts, toasted lightly, cooled and chopped
2 tbsp golden raisins, soaked in boiling water to cover for 1 minute and drained
2 tbsp thinly sliced scallion greens
Glazed fruits

In a small, heavy saucepan, cook the onion with the turmeric and the cardamom in 1 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter over moderately low heat, stirring, until the onion is softened. Add the rice and cook it, stirring, until it is coated with the butter. Add the broth; bring the liquid to a boil, covered, and simmer the mixture for 17 minutes, or until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender. Stir in the pistachios, raisins, scallion greens, the remaining ½ tbsp butter, and salt and pepper to taste.

Choco Butter Cake with Coconut Cream

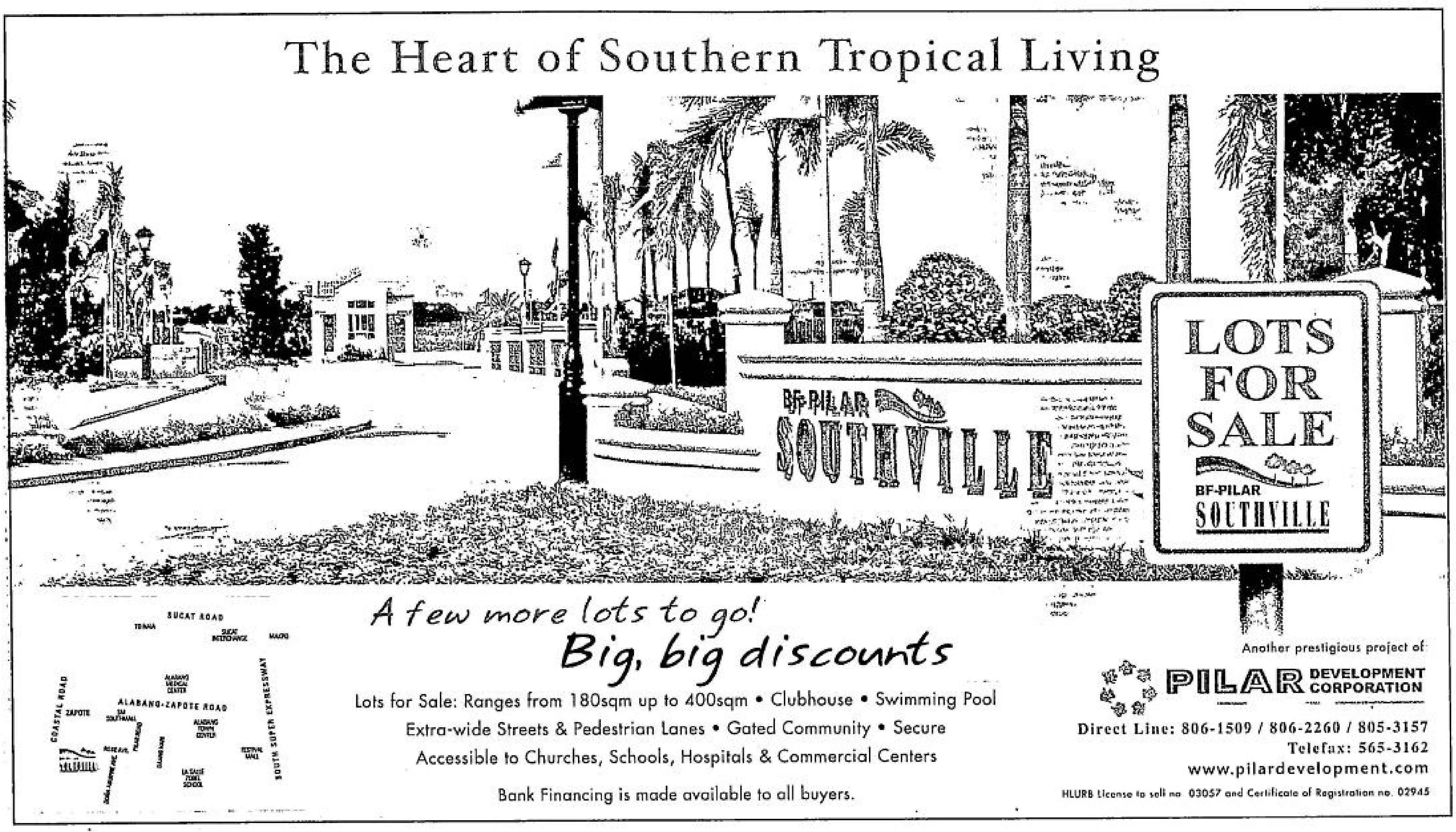
Coffee Coconut Cream:
¼ c brown sugar
2 tbsp coffee powder
½ c coconut milk
2 tbsp white sugar

Combine brown sugar and coffee powder in a saucepan. Cook over moderate heat until smooth. Set aside. Add the coconut milk and white sugar. Cool and strain.

Cake:
4 whole eggs with 2 egg yolks
½ c sugar
225 g bittersweet chocolate
1 c Magnolia Gold butter
½ c cake flour

Beat the eggs and sugar in a mixer for 5 minutes. When mixture becomes smooth, add the bittersweet chocolate, Magnolia Gold butter and the cake flour.

Divide in two small ramekins or one big soufflé dish. Bake for 20-25 minutes.



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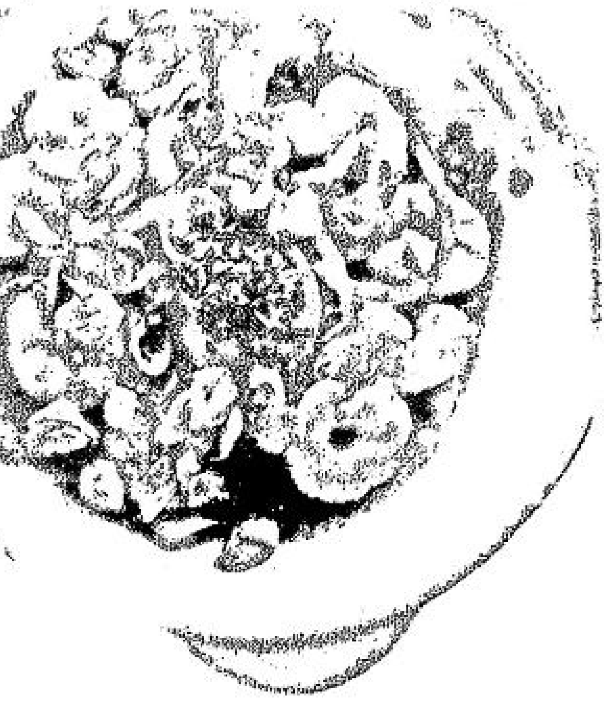


MALASAMOSA Potato, Malasamosa Chorizo, Malasamosa Smoked Salmon and Malasamosa Tinapa (left), and Gambas al Ajillo (shrimps sautéed in garlic)

A spree of pica-pica

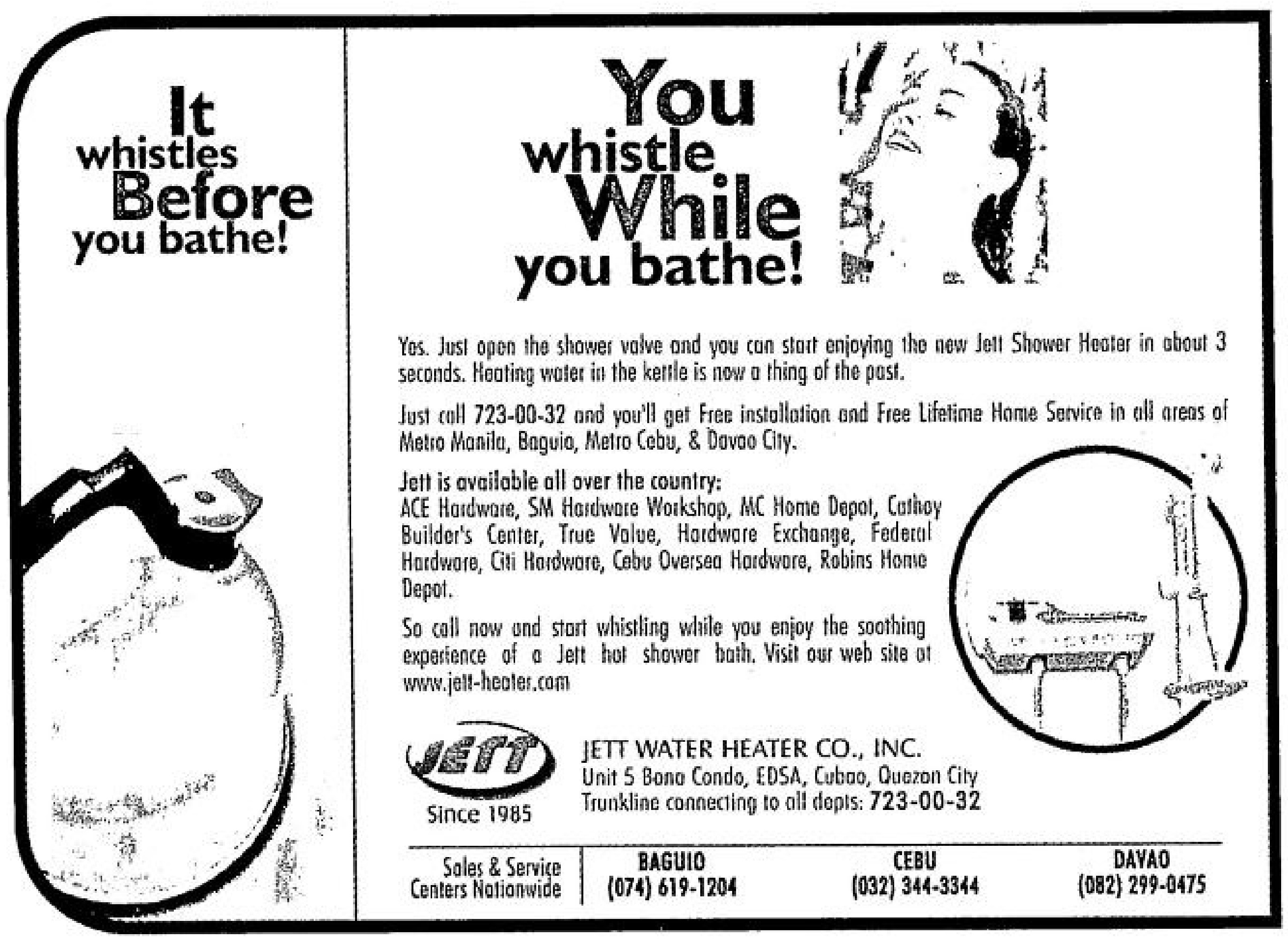
By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

CRISPY calamari, burger and fries, cheesy potato skins, spicy buffalo wings with celery and blue cheese. Such items, deep-fried or grilled, have become prosaic mainstays for stand-up or stool-sitting bar diners. That's okay. In a bar setting, interesting food has not traditionally been the focus. A dimly lit, noisy, smoke-filled room has long existed as a place for nursing a drink while avoiding the meaning of life or kvetching with colleagues about the tyranny of the boss.

But as designer brews and signature martinis have become the rage in recent years, the food has become more sophisticated. Creativity and variety have become virtues in bar menu preparation. In fact, some restaurants, like the newly opened Rastro, are stirring interest and conversation by showcasing a well-orchestrated menu and specialty drink list.

According to Ed Quimson, master chef and one of the owners of Rastro, the name refers to a large flea market

A SPREE/ p.D2



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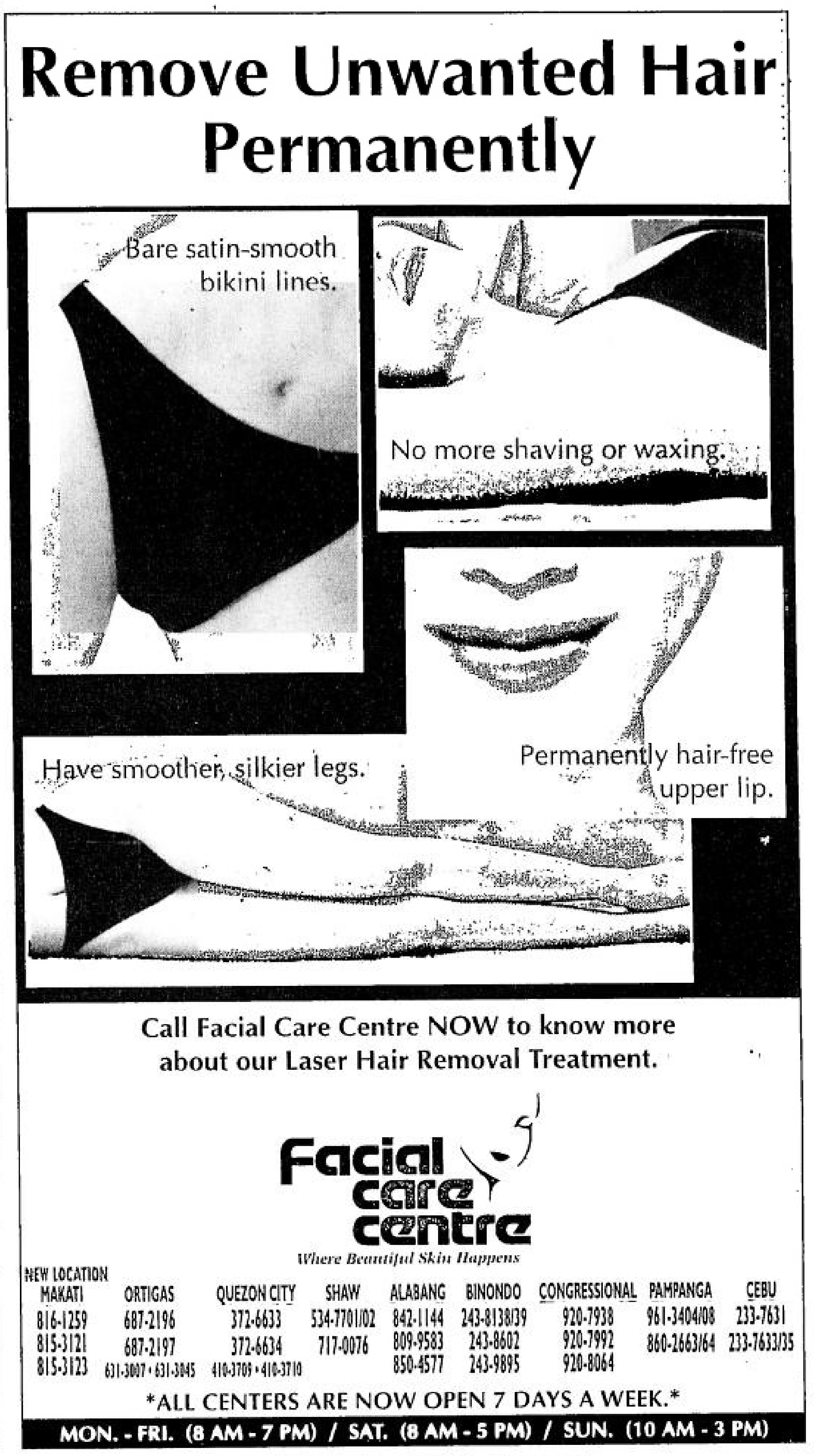

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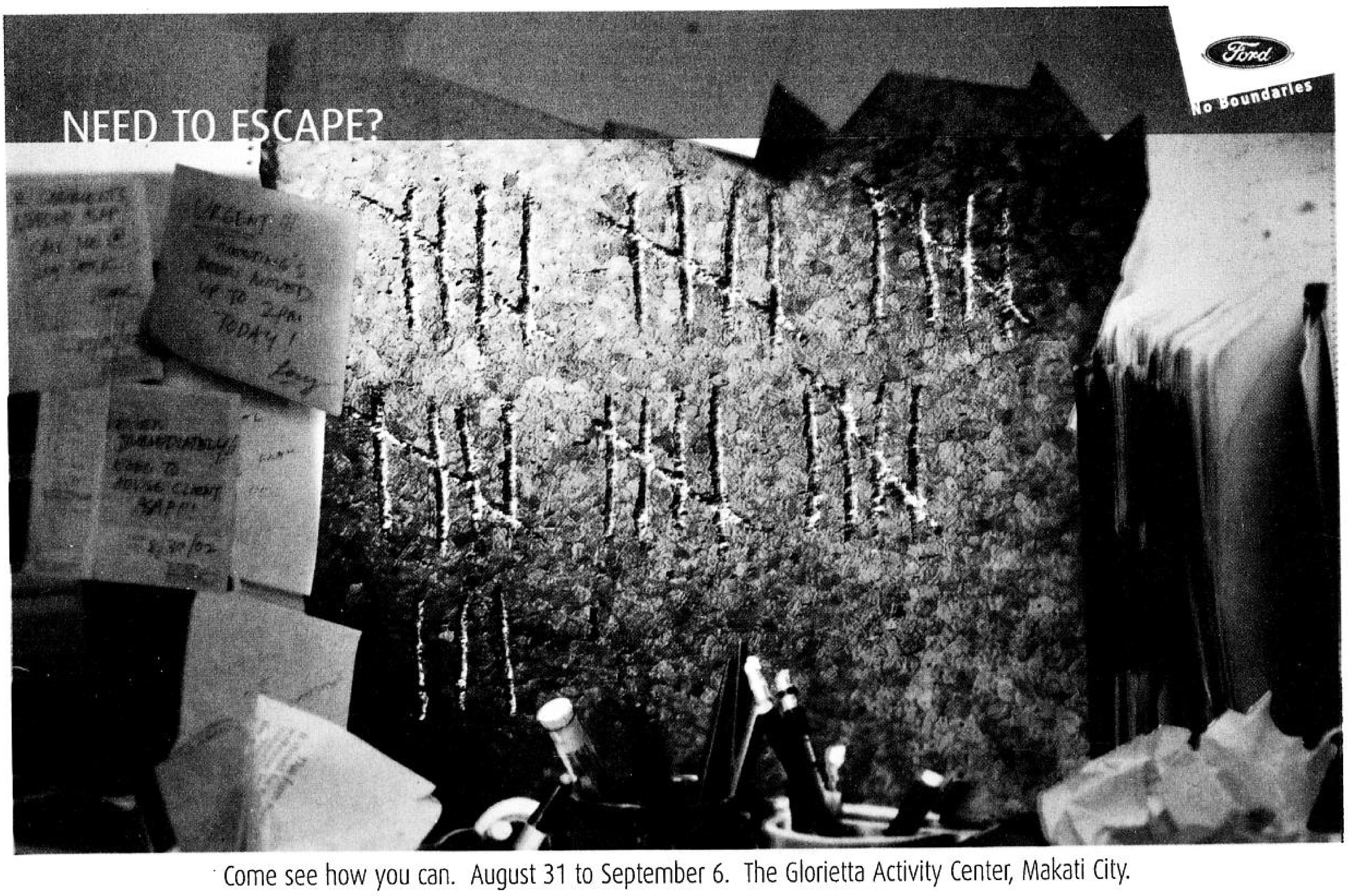

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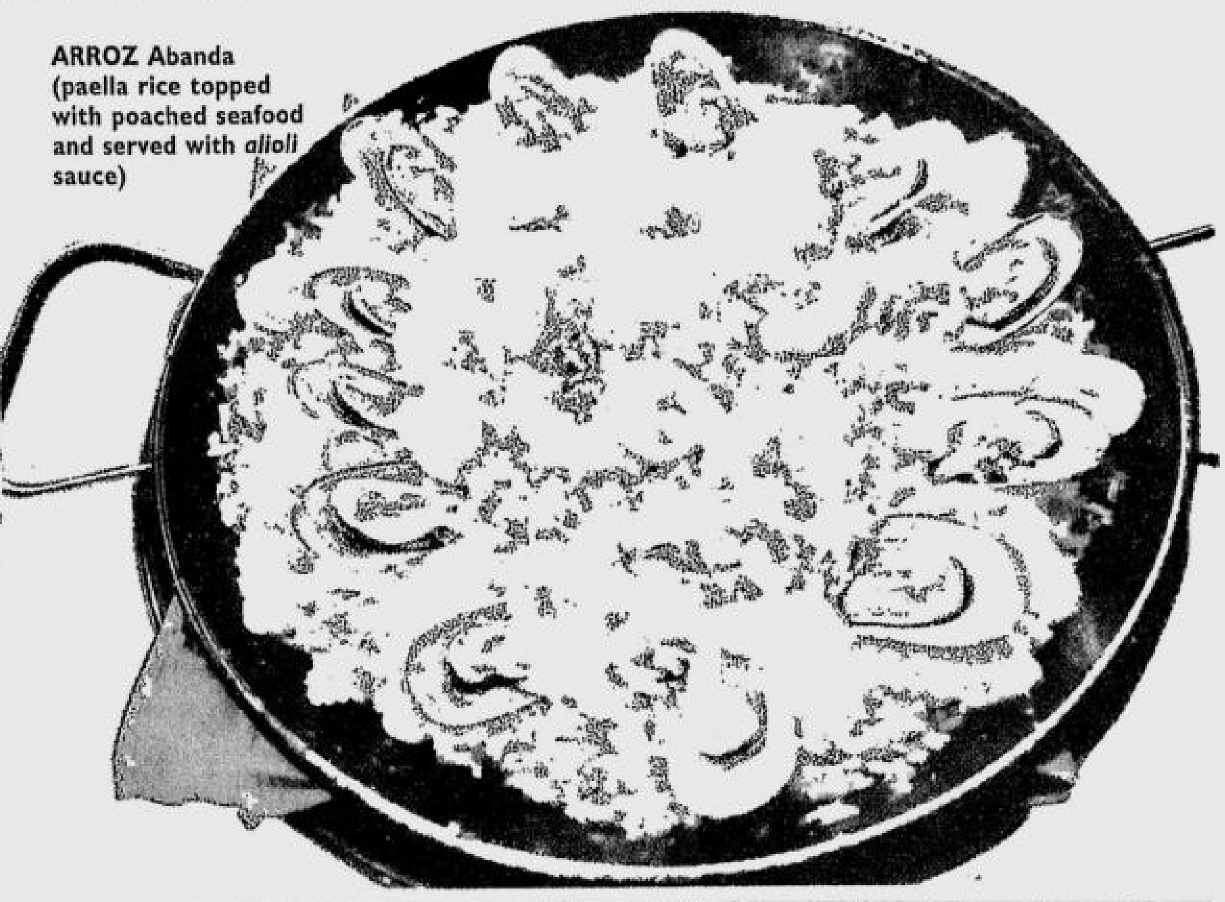


ARROZ Abanda (paella rice topped with poached seafood and served with *alioli* sauce)

A spree of pica-pica

From page D1

in Madrid, which sells from jewelry to antiques to junk. "Since we serve a hodgepodge of pica-pica, we called this place Rastro."

Spain's famed tradition of tapas has indeed fueled many a restaurateur's modern approach to bar food. With Rastro's more than a hundred menu items available in small portions, customers can enjoy a veritable smorgasbord of flavors and textures to nibble, with little chance of getting bored. "A pica-pica bar has been my dream ever since," Quimson says.

The bar and restaurant's bestsellers live up to their name. They include Pescado ala Sal (baked whole fish in rock salt served with *alioli* or paro salsa or tomato sauce); Gambas al Ajillo (shrimps sautéed in garlic); Champiñon al Ajillo (sautéed mushrooms in garlic and paprika); Croquetas de Paella Negra (black paella balls); Cuchi Frito (roast suckling pig); Chorizo de Pollo (homemade Spanish chicken sausage); Gran Tabla (cold cuts and cheeses); Malasamosa Potato, Chorizo, Smoked Salmon and Tinapa; Pate con Champiñon (chicken liver with fresh mushrooms and herbs); Arroz Abanda (paella rice topped with poached seafood and served with *alioli* sauce); Boquerones Aliñadas (fillet of fresh anchovies in vinaigrette and garlic); Baticlo de Sardinas (whipped cheese with Spanish sardines); and Triple Chocolate Silk (layers of dark, milk and white chocolate mousse on an Oreo crumb crust).

"People want finger food, things that are easy to eat and share," says Toti Mungcal, Quimson's assistant who has helped beef up the menu offerings. But catering to the present trend doesn't have to mean compromising quality or style. Variations on shrimps, spring rolls, chorizo, pate—Rastro has it all. There's room for fun and sophisticated twists on menu favorites.

Rastro's menu, Quimson says, is dedicated to the late Doreen Fernandez, his very dear friend of 14 years. "We nursed each other back to health when we were sick. Everything at Rastro fell into place when she passed away. My health condition has improved. And I know that Doreen's watching over me and the restaurant."

For such a great teacher, writer and friend, Quimson dedicates Turon al Rastro, spring rolls of Cavendish banana with *ghirardelli* dark chocolate. "Doreen loved anything with bananas."

Aside from Fernandez, Quimson dedicates his fruitful career to Rosario Wolfe, who tickled his palate with different kinds of simple but tasty food when he was only 4; his mother Betty Quimson, for teaching him the techniques and styles of cooking; and his grandmother Consuelo Tuazon, for showing him the world.

Dream come true

Located on Lopez Drive at Power Plant, Rockwell, Makati, Rastro is a hot spot for a quick bite and good wine and lively conversations. Rastro designers Lita Bondoc and Patty del Rosario have achieved a balance of comfort and style. While the decor is trendy, it is cleverly done to include comfort as its main attraction. Cushions and throw pillows with ethnic designs lure patrons to sit back and relax. The ambience is casual, yet richly colored.

Known for his experimental ways with food, Quimson never went to a culinary school. But he remembers that, as a kid, he was always happy helping in the kitchen. He dropped out after the first semester of second-year high school. "I was very bored with school because I knew what I wanted to be."

When his family migrated to the US, they lived at the Intercon Hotel for three months, where Quimson, who was only 8 then, met the hotel chef. "He was tall and big, wore white pants, an apron, polo shirt and a huge hat. We became friends and he allowed me into the kitchen everyday, as if it was my own."

At 11, he was already the official cook of the family. When his father passed away, he worked as dishwasher and kitchen helper.

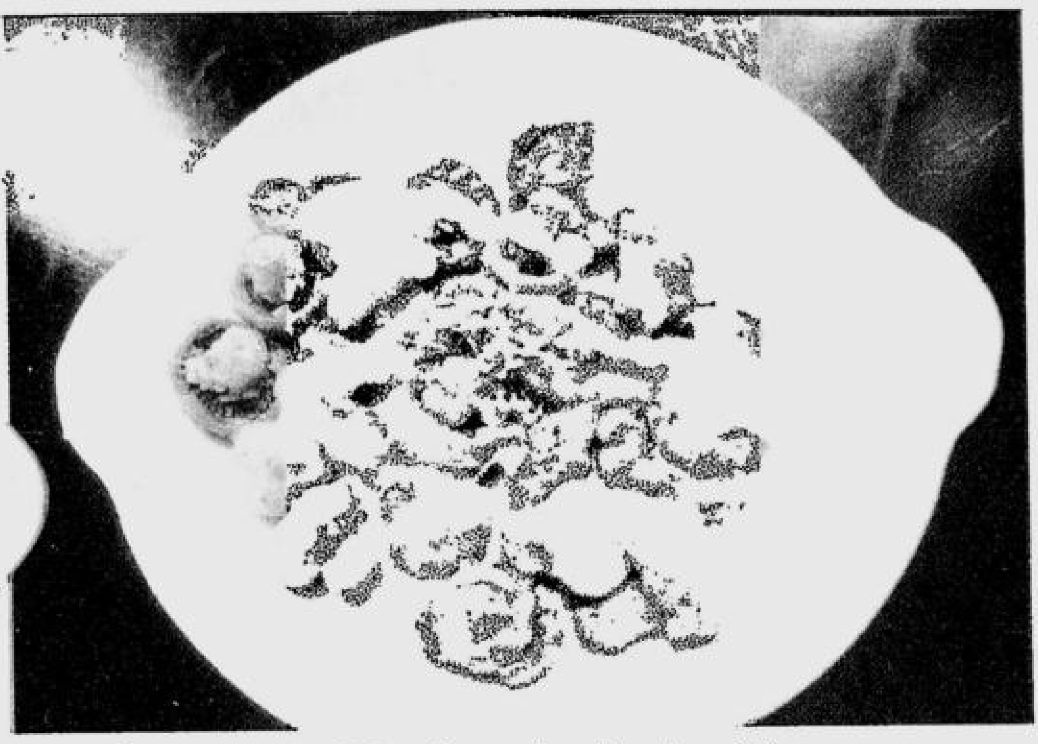
His grandmother sent him to Spain to study, but instead of attending classes, he went on a gastronomic adventure in different restaurants. He once went to a cooking school to learn how to make chorizos. Nineteen years later, the education was put to good use.

When he himself ventured into the restaurant business (La Tasca, Nielsen Tower Club and Restaurant, Via Mare, Cebu City Bites, Brokers Lounge, Giraffe, Alabang Country Club, Skyline and Subic Bay Yacht Club), he proffered personalized service, asking customers what they would like to eat. "It's always nice to give special attention to diners." Getting new customers to come in once and turning them into patrons is an art for Quimson. And giving Rastro's bar menu the attention it deserves makes it happen.

"We're food-driven, not just a watering hole. Ninety percent or more of our bar customers eat something while they're here," Quimson says. Creating distinctive, interesting menu options for patrons has helped define the mood and style of the restaurant.

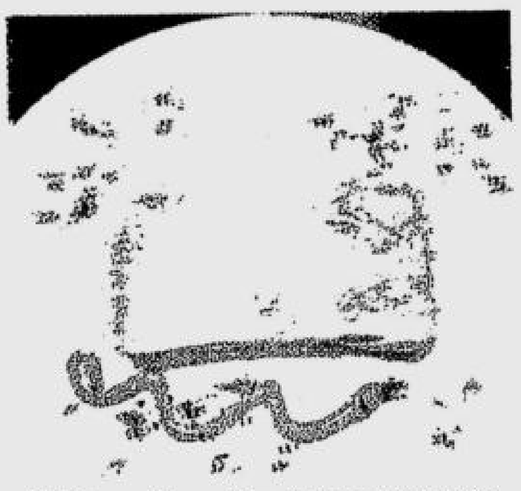
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

BOQUERONES Aliñadas (fillet of fresh anchovies in vinaigrette and garlic)

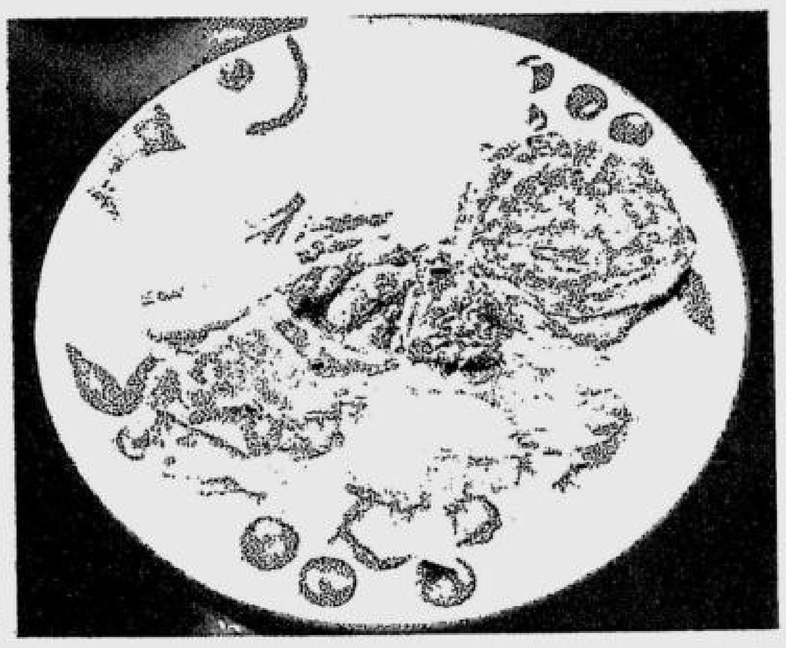


CHAMPIÑON al Ajillo (sautéed mushrooms in garlic and paprika)

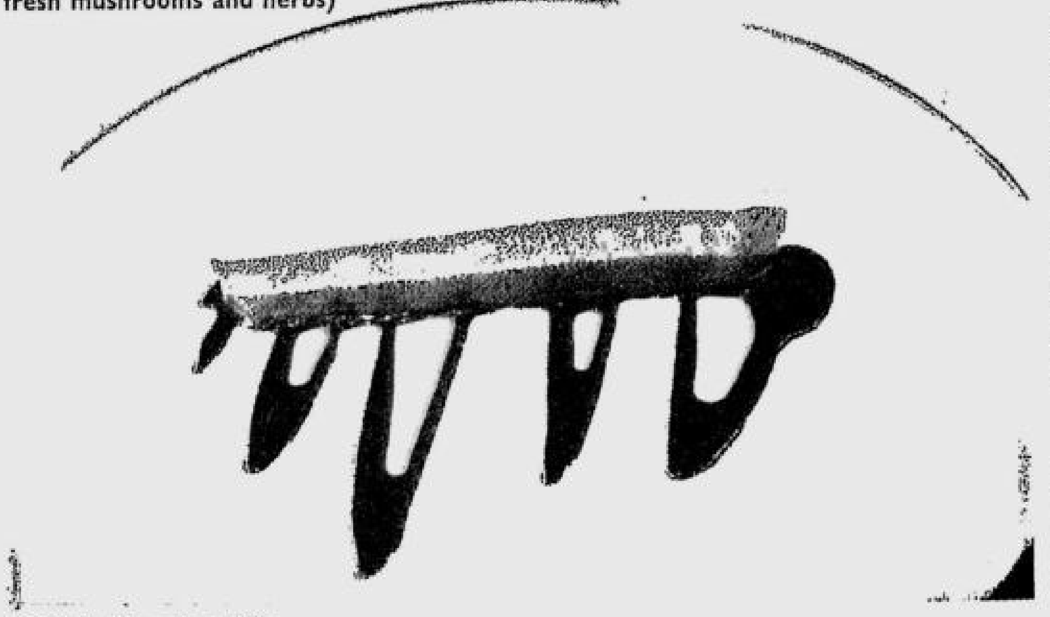
CROQUETAS de Paella Negra (black paella balls)



PATE con Champiñon (chicken liver with fresh mushrooms and herbs)



GRAN Tabla (cold cuts and cheeses)



TRIPLE Chocolate Silk

RASTRO's master chef Ed Quimson (extreme left) and his assistant Toti Mungcal with the kitchen staff

ASIDE from interesting menu options, Rastro also concocts bar topnotchers.

Medical malpractices and other consumers' gripes

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

WHILE we don't agree wholeheartedly with the medical malpractice bills proposed by legislators, we strongly push for a code of conduct that would regulate abuses and unethical practices of hospitals and doctors.

Some of the more rampant malpractices we can think of right now include exorbitant charges, doctors accepting more patients than they can handle at the same time, and failure to promptly inform patients and relatives about patients' conditions. The code should, among others, also define ethics when it comes to the sponsorship of drug companies.

Among other provisions, the code should appoint a supervising body to implement, inspect, investigate and report on violations and abuses. It should also inspect overpricing at hospitals, particularly private establishments.

We, the relatives of patients confined at intensive care units of private hospitals, have tales of horrors to relate, but we'll tackle that in the future. For now, here is a letter that describes the experience of a patient's relative, Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, president of the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organization.

"My sister, Marieta Ubaldo Encarnacion was admitted, previously at St. Agnes Hospital and later at the Capitol Medical Center, where doctors diagnosed her ailment as cardiomyopathy. She was discharged with assurance from the attending cardiologist that she could still perform light household duties. I believe that any heart problem requires complete bed rest. No thanks to that doctor, my sister had to be rushed to the hospital again where she had to be confined at the intensive care unit for myocardial infarction. She had to undergo angiogram to the tune of P50,000. All in all, her hospitalization cost us P100,000. My sister is still sick.

"My sister is but one of many patients who don't get the right information from their doctors. I hope that Rep. Oscar Rodrigues' Bill of Patients' Rights be enacted into law so that patients' rights can be protected. I believe my sister could have avoided the costly confinement and angiogram had she been properly informed."

Here's another story that was forwarded to our e-mail box. A physically active housewife underwent a thyroid operation at 9:30 p.m. in one of the hospitals in Makati. The husband was reportedly notified about his wife's continuous post-operation seizures two hours later when she was already comatose. The husband, Ponce Tugonon, complained that the anesthesiologist and surgeon refused to explain what happened to his wife. He also claimed that the hospital refused to give him a copy of his wife's medical abstract and histopath.

He reportedly wanted to verify the report from a hospital source that his wife had an overdose of anaesthetic. "I advise patients and their relatives to choose a reliable anesthesiologist because the life of a patient depends on them."

Consumer complaints and comments

Martin M. Lauraya wrote: "In less than one month since I bought a mobile phone, it failed to function. I brought it back to the shop where the defective part was replaced. It worked for a short time before it failed to function again, and the shop once again repaired the defect. If it malfunctions for the third time, can I demand for a refund?"

(Call the Department of Trade and Industry-National Capital Region at tel. 811-8231 local 1212 or 1216 for consumer complaint and inquiry.)

· Here's a warning to mall-goers in Davao City from chito-manago@my.smart.com.ph: "I almost became a victim of a 'Kiskis-Panalo' gimmick at JS Gaisano store. The aggressive salesman was even wearing a neck tie."

("Kiskis-Panalo" is a contest that requires participants to rub a spot on a coupon to uncover the number combination that could win prizes. Some *kiskis-panalo* gimmicks turn out to be ripoffs and scams that trick participants into buying products or shelling out money.)

From Shelby Payne of Dasmariñas, Cavite: "Why are popular fast-food restaurants cutting down the size of their products and charging extra for items that used to be freebies? I went to some fast-food restaurants and noted that McDonald's now charges for extra butter, Jollibee no longer gives free coffee refill in the morning, and Burger King now charges for drink refill.

"DTI should compel these fast-food establishments to inform their customers about the extra charges in conspicuous signage. Some of them have these new charges in their menu, but the prints are too small."

Ma. Cristina F. Asis of Marikina City wrote: "We came from Naia and decided to dine at a tea house nearby. We ordered dimsum and noodles. When we were almost finished, I saw a foreign object floating in my mom's soup. It was a cockroach! The waiter apologized, the lady cashier offered to replace the contaminated dish, the manager was not around and nobody wanted to give us his/her name."

E-pass monitor errs

Alan D. R. de Luzuriaga, an e-pass holder, is calling on South Luzon Expressway supervisors to check the e-pass machines, particularly at the Filinvest area. He related the following experience: "I passed the Carmona entrance, but when I was at the Filinvest exit, I was told by the toll clerk that my e-pass card had no balance left. How could that happen when my unit automatically loads P500 every time the balance goes down to P250? The amount is always charged to my credit card. The clerk refused my explanation. I had to pay the toll fee, but what pissed me off was being charged for the rate from the farthest entry point instead of just the Carmona entrance.

"It may be a small amount to pay, but it rankles to feel cheated. The least they can do when their e-pass sensors or computers break down is to allow the e-pass motorists to pass freely and not to charge them more than they should be paying."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Learn the secrets of Asian and alternative cuisine

INTERNATIONALLY renowned master chef Regina Aspiras has put together a specialized culinary training program open to all who seek to learn the secrets of Asian and "alternative" cuisine.

The certificate courses, duly recognized and accredited by the James Beard Foundation, the American Institute of Wine and Food, and the International Association of Culinary Professionals, being offered are:

Macrobiotic/Holistic Healing Cuisine (designed most especially for cancer, diabetic and heart patients) teaches the basic principles of macrobiotics and certified and effective healthy diets. Also included are alternative natural healing techniques (i.e. natural body rubs and scrubs) for both the healthy and disease-stricken Filipinos seeking an effective alternative healing lifestyle.

Coffee Shod Cuisine deals with the culinary needs and requirements customarily entailed in establishments like coffee shops, cafés and bistros.

Mastery of Asian Cuisine is a thorough and hands-on training of selected and exotic Asian cuisine from Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines. As an additional treat, it will also deal with the study of Asian art and various culinary techniques necessary to produce restaurant and catering quality of Asian food.

These specialized courses will be held at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts at the Edsa Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City.

Hands-on training will be conducted by the master chef herself. All recipes to be taught in each themed course are included in the culinary package for the use of all the students. Lunch will be served, free of charge, during each session. Likewise, course-related complimentary products will be distributed. At the end of each program module, a certificate of completion will be handed out. An option for basic and/or advanced restaurant training will be available to all graduates who are interested.

Enrolment is ongoing at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. All training sessions will start at 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday to Saturday, depending on the subject taken. Enrollment fee must be paid in full at least 10 days before classes start. Refund of enrolment fee is allowed only if cancellation is done within five days prior to class opening. Call 633-5162 or 928-9296.

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- Consultations with any physician
- Double cash payment in case of death caused by an earthquake

Type	Benefits
Broken Bones, Burns, Internal Injuries	P 250,000
Accidental Death	P 2,000,000
Weekly Hospital Cash for Accidents	P 25,000
Permanent Total Disability	P 2,000,000
Double Cash Payment	P 2,000,000

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GUESTS at the First Gentleman's Cup golf tournament held recently at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club West Course capped off their day at the greens, sipping Scotch whisky Johnnie Walker. The tournament celebrated First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's birthday, as well as raised funds for Project Oyster, the Out-of-School Youth Serving Toward Economic Recovery, Arroyo's social program, aimed at giving impoverished youths a chance to become productive members of society. Toward the end of the celebration, he happily announced that the tournament was able to raise about P30 million.

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SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

Sept. 02, Mon. - THAI FAVORITES I. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thaikupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Paad Thai, Bagoong Rice, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves. Ph 1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 03, Tues. - THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chariya Thaikupt, Tom Kha Talay, Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce and Cucumber Salad, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at Ph 1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

Sept. 04, Wed. - THAI BARBECUE. Different kinds of genuine Thai Barbecue with sauces and side dish from Chef Chariya like Chicken Barbecue, Grilled Catfish, Grilled Pork Belly, Grilled Pork Spareribs, 5 Kinds of Sauces and Papaya Salad for P1,200.00 including all the ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 05, Thurs. - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 2. Once again Chef Gino will teach another set of bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas giveaways. Recipes include Violet Crumble, Boursin, Butter Caramel Sauce, Homemade Whole Grain Mustard, Nougat, Dried Tomatoes in Oil and Cheese Log for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 pm.

Sept. 06, Fri. - SAVORY SOUPS. As the cooler months come, Chef Junju7n teaches assorted soups for everyone to enjoy. Recipes include French Mushroom Soup, Minestrone, Pate Gallego, Corn Chowder, Cream of Watercress Soup and Asian Carrot Soup for P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients. **NEW CLASS.**

Sept. 09, Mon. - JAPANESE RICE AND NOODLES. Recipes include Tongkatsudon, Gyudon, Oyakodon, Yakitoridon, Zarusoba, Niku Udon and Wakame Soba for P1,200.00 including all ingredients. **NEW CLASS.**

Sept. 10, Tues. - THE SPECIALTY BURGER CLASS 2. Chef Gino will teach the sequel to the basic burgers of class 1. Learn to make great theme burgers such as the Brazilian, Duck, Chicken, Seafood, Sausage, Teriyaki Wasabi and the sumptuous fixins that go with it. Great for entertaining and for food business from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P1,500.00 including all ingredients.

Sept. 11, Wed. - PATÉS, MOUSSES AND SMEARS. Appetizing delights for people who entertain and as Christmas is just around the corner, possible gifts or something to sell. Learn delectable spreads Tomato Spread, Chicken Liver Paté, Eggplant with 3 Cheeses, Ham Mousse, Crab and Artichoke Spread and Spinach Mushroom Boursin. For P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

Sept. 12, Thurs. - THE ART OF JAPANESE FRYING. Chef Rikichi Aoki from Osaka, Japan teaches the simple art of Favorite Japanese Fried Dishes in this class that features Tempura, Katsudon, Tongkatsu, Donburi plus the sauces that accompanies every dish. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 13, Fri. - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS. Chef Junjun who grew up with Nutty Butterscotch Bars, Oatmeal Mango Cookies; Honey Orange Bars, Rocky Road Bar, Amaretti Cookies and Neiman's Mistake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 14, Sat. - GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 2. With Chorizo and Roasted Garlic Cream, Chorizo and Shrimp in Saffron Cream, Duck Farfalette with Dried Currants, Gene's Favorite Tortellini, Salmon Lasagna with Saffron Sauce and Linguine alla Vongole Salsa Bianca. P980.00 with all the ingredients included 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

Sept. 17, Tues. - CHRISTMAS GOODIES I. The very first of the Christmas Goodies that Center for Asian Culinary Studies will be giving out for you. Butter Cupcakes, Blueberry Cheesecake, Custard Chiffon Cake, Crema de Fruta, Queen Elizabeth Cake and Canonigo are just some of the recipes that Chef Jill will be teaching. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 pm.

Sept. 18, Wed. - KOREAN COOKING 2. O-Jing Auh Bok Gum (Squid Salad), Takkalbi (Chicken Barbecue), Korean Grilled Chili Pork, Sue Jae Bi (Flat Noodles with Vegetables and Dried Anchovy), Chapche (Crystal Noodles with Thinly Sliced Beef and Vegetables), Kimchi Bokumbap (Korean Fried Rice) and Cold Cucumber Soup. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00.

Sept. 19, Thurs. - FAVORITE CATERING DISHES. Two Classes in One, Chef Junjun teaches all the dishes of his 2 Catering Classes from 10:00 - 4:00 for P2,000.00. This class is for all housewives, cooks and anyone who wants to learn new dishes for their catering business. Recipes include Chorizo and Mushroom Platter, Smoked Fish Mousse, Assorted Salad with Pesto Vinaigrette and Garlic Ranch Dressing, Mushroom and Barley Soup, Italian Short Ribs Stew, Chicken Imperial, Vegetable Lasagne, Royal Lapu-lapu and White Chocolate Tiramisu. **NEW CLASS.**

Sept. 21, Sat. - PAELLAS N' RISOTTOS 2. Paella de Mariscos, Paella Primavera, Paella de Fideos, Seafood Jambalaya and Risotto alla Milanese are the recipes that Chef Gene will share with us. For P980.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

Sept. 23, Mon. - BUDDY'S PLATED DESSERTS Simple plated desserts from Chef Buddy that you will surely like. Recipes include Banana Mousse with Sesame Nougat, Mango Madness, Raspberry Mousse, Tahitian Vanilla Crème Brulee and Lemon Crème in Cookie Cup for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 24, Tues. - EVERYBODY LOVES CHICKEN 2. The second time around for Chef Junjun this time sharing his old homestyle chicken dishes. Spanish Chicken Rice, Chicken in Seven-up, Salpicon, Chicken Adobo with Kamias, Italian Chicken Stew and Chicken Liver Pate for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 25, Wed. - FAVORITE PASTA DISHES. Pasta dishes from the recipes of Chef Jill Sandique like Spaghetti alla Puttanesca, Fettuccine Alfredo, Penne Alla Pomodoro, Pasta Primavera, Pasta Al Ragu (Bolognese) and Carbonara. For Ph 1,500 including all the ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Sept. 26, Thurs. - LASAP: TEMPTING FAVORITES. The recipes of Adobong Crispy Pata, Tiyan ng Bangus sa Utaw, Sizzling Kuaket, Laing sa Lasap, Sari-saring Lumpiang Paborito, Ensalada de Polo and Guinomis for the dessert from Chef Gene Gonzalez. P1,200.00 including ingredients from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Sept. 27, Fri. - BARS AND STUFF Favorite Bars from Chef Buddy that can be used as give-away this coming holiday season such as Lemon Bars, Toffee Bars, Cream Cheese Bars, Cinnamon Apple Bars, Carrot Bars and French Macaroons for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

Sept. 28, Sat. - GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN. Chef Gene prepares an array of Holiday gifts your friends will appreciate and that are easy to prepare in the shortest possible time. Classic favourites such as Vela de Lomo, Gourmet Tuyo, Grilled White Cheese, Aceitunas Aliñadas, Dulong in Olive oil, Mufuletta and many more. P980.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon. Recipes include all ingredients.

Sept. 30, Mon. - CHOCOLAT!!! Chef Buddy Trinidad from the pastry kitchens of Michael's in Santa Monica and Manhattan and Stars of San Francisco gives us a sampling of his specialties such as Dark Double Chocolate Brownies, Decadent Chocolate Truffles, Chocolate Molten Cake, Buddy's Chocolate Flourless Cake and Chocolate Mirror Glaze for Ph 1,200.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 01, Tues. - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS I Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,200.00 including ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

TASTEMAKERS

New food court features popular and cool establishments

TASTE Buds, the Food and Fun Republic, invades the mall dining scene with its cool and hip concept. Now open at the 2/L of Robinsons Place Manila, the 2,000-sqm Taste Buds houses nine popular food establishments, namely Bacolod Chicken Inasal, Sushi-ya, Sugarhouse, San Francisco Coffee, Pinoydon, Dencio's Bar & Grill, Tequila Joe's, Tang City and Mario's Kitchen.

Bacolod Chicken Inasal offers the popular Bacolod chicken barbecue and other popular dishes from Bacolod City. Sushi-ya features appetizing Japanese food. Tang City has Chinese dishes from Hong Kong, Shanghai and Szechuan while Tequila Joe's proffers appetizing dishes and a wide selection of beverages.

If you're on the lookout for home-baked goodies or good coffee, drop by Sugarhouse or San Francisco Coffee. Mario's Kitchen will soon be offering versions of its well-loved dishes to its patrons, while Dencio's Bar & Grill tries out the mall scene with its full-service mall outlet, complete with a mini garden and waterfalls. For Japanese cuisine with a twist, sample Pinoydon's interesting menu.

ALLIED Domecq fires up the night life with its Diablo 7 Deadly Sins bar tour. It launches Diablo as the bold, dark spirit giving consumers tempting concoctions like Lust, Sloth, Wrath, Gluttony, Avarice, Envy and Pride, available in selected wine shops and bars like Mustang, Dreambar, Orange, Dish, Gweilos, Acquario and Wherelse. Photo shows Tante Felipe, Allied Domecq Phils. HR director, and guests Mary Anne Felipe, Bb. Pilipinas World 2002 Kate Manalo and Pio Hernandez enjoying a night of Avarice in Gweilos.

THE TOWER Club, the country's premier, by-invitation-only business and social club, has appointed Zaldy Ladroma as chef de cuisine. Ladroma joined a five-star hotel eight years ago and worked his way up to the position of chef de cuisine upon joining The Tower Club. He is an expert in diverse cuisines, from French, Continental and Modern Filipino, to Classic, New Asian and Fusion. The Tower Club is on the 33/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City. Call 885-7085.

FILL 'ER UP. Rowena Tomeldan and Ma. Teresa Palma, attorneys-in-fact of Foodcourt Company Inc. (FCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala Land Corp., get their fill of Nestea and Nestlé Lemonade, which are now the official noncarbonated drinks in all Ayala food courts. FCI and Nestlé recently signed a memorandum of agreement to collaborate on a series of marketing and promotional efforts to further increase consumer traffic and consumption in all Ayala food courts. FCI operates existing food courts in Glorietta 4 and the newly renovated Greenbelt, and is looking at opening two more before the end of the year.

TASTE TESTS

POWER-PACKED PROMO. National Sports Grill on the 3/L Greenbelt I, Ayala Center in Makati, is calling all sports fanatics to join its promo ongoing until Oct. 31. For a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000, a diner will be given a P100 NSG gift certificate and a dessert card. For a minimum single receipt purchase of P2,000, one will be given a one-hour billiard card and a beer card that entitles him to four local beers. And for a minimum single receipt purchase of P3,000, he will be given a homerun sampler card. All redemption cards are valid on their next visit until Dec. 31. Call 752-5431.

BREAD Connection celebrates its 19th year with its 19er Sandwich, a 9-inch all-beef and juicy sausage with a choice of toppings: garlic mayonnaise, chili catsup or honey mustard, for only P19. It is available in Bread Connection store outlets in Metro Manila, Tarlac, SM Pampanga and Antipolo City.

NUTRI-LICIOUS
PREMIUM
Mango

NUTRI-LICIOUS Mango Juice Drink is now in a new packaging as Nutri-Licious Foods Corp. launches its new premium mango juice drink in PP Cup. The new drink is made from the freshest and finest mangoes, thus making it a nutritious thirst-quencher. Available in selected outlets nationwide.

Junior Detective
Jolly Hotdog

JOLLY Kiddie Meal presents Junior Detective, a top-secret four-piece kit for junior spies and detectives. There's Champ Magnifier, French Fries Telescope, Hotdog Periscope and Swirl-Lite as guide. Collect all four toys when you order a Jolly Kiddie Meal. Available in all Jollibee stores nationwide.

Nestlé
Soya Milk

EXPERIENCE the joys of soy with new Nestlé Soya Milk with high-calcium content that ensures extra strong teeth and bones. You also get essential amino acids, 10-percent RDA minus the cholesterol because the milk is soy-based. New Nestlé Soya Milk has less fat than regular milk. Available at your favorite supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

JellYace
BUKO PANDAN
WITH NATA DE COCO
JellYace
ASSORTED
JellYace
HALO-HALO FIESTA
JellYace
PREMIUM
LYCHEE
WITH NATA DE COCO

JELLYACE now comes not only in colorful packages but with a helpful product information. It also features a serving suggestion printed on the back label. Consumers are instructed to serve the dessert in bite-size portions, particularly for younger children and the elderly.

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, George Sison and Mme. Clara Colesanti

BRAZILIAN counselor Carlos de Carvalho and Beth Day Romulo

DJ Lopez and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin

CHARO Apacible, Karen Macasaet, Nympha Yatco, Danny Dolor and Nena del Rosario

Birthday celebrations of 2 stylish gentlemen

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

BOBBY Novenario (standing right) with Ricco Ocampo, Agnes Huibonhoa, Ching Cruz and Nomer Pabilona

(SEATED) Myrna Borromeo, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and Justa Tantoco; (standing) Thelma Gana, Bobby Novenario, Baby de Jesus and Lulu Castañeda

DESIGNER Bobby Novenario and prosperity guru George Sison share a few things in common. While one preaches the way to prosperity and the other promotes the doctrine of elegance, both are stylish gentlemen of impeccable taste. They also happen to be two of our town's spiffiest hosts. Proofs of this are the recent parties they hosted to celebrate their respective milestones.

Bobby held his party at his lovely Forbes Park residence. Working with florist Ramon Pastor, he transformed his spacious living room and lanai into an oasis of votive candles, gauze curtains, fragrant flowers and fresh fruits. His friend, chef Arlene Arce, prepared a delicious buffet of seafood paella, salmon capers pasta, steamed *lapu-lapu* and prawns, while Justa Tantoco threw in fresh oysters from her fish farm in Batangas.

As in his previous celebrations, the affair started with a thanksgiving Mass concelebrated by Bishop Raul Martinez and Fr. Gerry Tapiador. The Mass has become a significant part of Bobby's birthday celebrations since he survived a near-fatal holdup attempt three years ago. Coming early for the Mass were Bobby's friends from the Two Hearts Foundation like Susan Laudico, Bong Limjoco, Penny Sibal, Betty Mathay, Letty Ruiz, Nympha Yatco, Lorna Quisumbing and Vilma Valera.

Despite another big social happening that night, almost a hundred guests came to the party. There were big-name politicians like Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste, former Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay, QC's No. 1 councilor Bong Suntay and Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla. From Bobby's fashion circle came Pitoy Moreno, Nomer Pabilona, Tina and Ricco Ocampo of Anonymous, and Charo Apacible of Giorgio. Finally, there was the glamorous posse composed of Ching Cruz, Fortune Ledesma, Nini Licaros, Chit Gohu, Thelma Gana, Myrna Borromeo, Marge Tambunting, Agnes Huibonhoa, Nene Leonor, Offie Recto, Doris Ho, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Susan Reyes. After dinner, entertainment was provided by the stand-up comedians from Punchline, courtesy of Brenda Reyes.

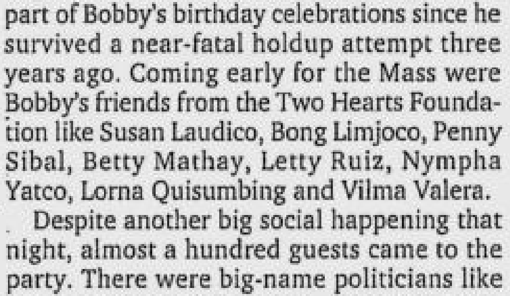
Meanwhile, George Sison marked his milestone at his popular Middle Eastern restaurant Stars of Giorgio on Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati. In keeping with the color theme of the affair, the birthday boy wore a tailored suit with a gold tie and an heirloom emerald pin.

A rush of positive vibrations greeted the guests as they entered the lobby, which was festooned with multicolored butterflies, flowers, crystals and scented candles. They were given place cards corresponding to their sun signs.

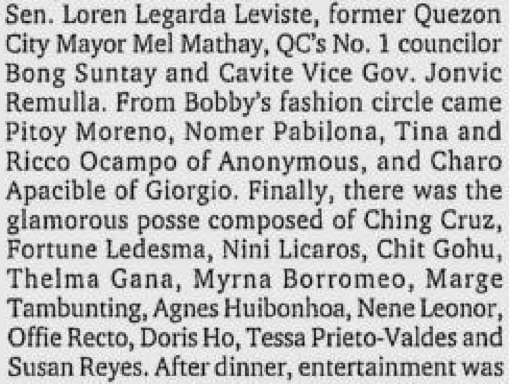
Early birds Brazilian counselor Carlos de Carvalho, Narda Camacho, journalist Glenn Gale, Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, Bambi Harper, and Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and wife Clara were noted enjoying the mouthwatering hors d'ouvres. Dinnertime found socialite DJ Lopez seated with CCP prez Bal Endriga's wife Tessie, former Metropolitan Museum directress Rita Ledesma and sprightly society grand dame Paz Yuchengco. Spread out in the other tables were Singaporean Ambassador Jacky Foo, DanceSport Council prez Becky Garcia, lady envoy Josie Lichauco, art connoisseur Rosemary Lopez, fitness high priestess Cory Quirino and architect Chito Antonio.

Jonathan Badon and Mary Anne Baclao entertained the guests with arias from famous operas, and world-class concert pianist Raul Sunico played the "Happy Birthday" song in 10 different ways. A champagne toast for George and the other Geminis in the party like Beth Day Romulo, Tonet Lagdameo, Katrina Chua, William Tan and Manoling Poblador capped the scintillating evening of serendipitous encounters, splendid food, exquisite music and, yes, positive vibes.

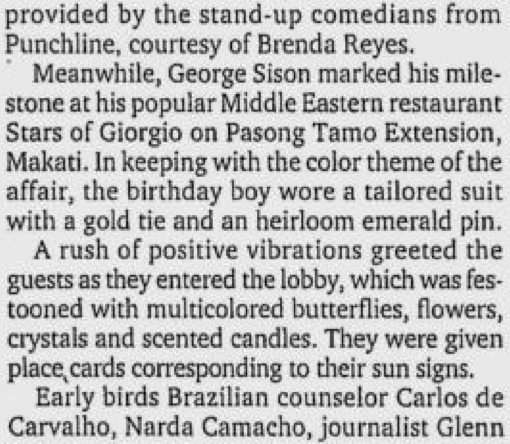
To Bobby and George, a toast to many more candles to blow!



CORY Quirino and Chito Antonio



CHIT Gohu, Fortune Ledesma and Nene Leonor



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Promo Period:
August 1 to
August 30, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1445 Series of 2002

SM CITY NORTH EDSA • NORTH EDSA ANNEX • NORTH EDSA BASEMENT • SM MAKATI • HARRIZON PLAZA • SM CUBAO •
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SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY MANILA • SM DELGADO • SM CITY PAMPANGA • ROCKWELL • SUCAT • SM CITY DAVAO

Kare Kareng
kari-karipas kainin!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo
ang inyong Kare Kare.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng
Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Kare Kare a la Mang Tomas

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 kilo ox tail
1 cup water
1 big onion, quartered
1/2 cup *atsuete* seeds
for coloring (annatto seeds)
1 pc. eggplant
1/2 big bundle *sitaw*
(string beans)
1 pc. banana heart
(*puso ng saging*)
1 head garlic, choppped
2 pcs. onion, sliced
1/4 cup UFC Golden Fiesta
Cooking Oil
1 cup MANG TOMAS
ALL-AROUND SARSA
1/2 cup *bagoong alamang*
(salted fermented small shrimps)
1/4 cup toasted ground peanuts
1/4 cup toasted ground rice
Salt to taste

PROCEDURE:
1. Boil ox tail in 6 cups water with onions until tender. Cut into desired pieces and set aside.
2. Cut vegetables into desired pieces. Boil enough water and drop string beans and parboil. Do likewise with eggplants and banana heart.
3. Soak *atsuete* seeds in water (1/2 cup); rub to bring out color. Set aside.
4. Saute garlic and onions in cooking oil. Add *atsuete* water. Let boil for 5 minutes. Blend in ground peanuts and ground rice. Add Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
5. Bring to boil then put in the meats. Just before removing from fire, add the vegetables.

MANG TOMAS
All-Around Sarsa

MANG TOMAS
KUSINA BILIDAD
All-Around Sarap mula sa All-Around Sarsa

Want to improve your *KUSINAbilidad*? Watch out for more exciting recipes and make sure you have your Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa handy in your kitchen. Because with Mang Tomas, dishes become doubly delicious.

A taste of the sweet life and everything nice

JAMBALAYA, a spicy rice dish flavored with Cajun spices mixed with tomatoes, andouielle sausage and assorted shellfish, at Café Berrio's New Orleans food festival

DINING OUT

DISCOVERY Suites' Café Berrio holds the New Orleans food festival until tomorrow. Dubbed "Suite Spice of Life," the festival features Cajun and Creole dishes such as Cajun Garlic BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Jambalaya, Chicken Bayou Lafourche, Cold Cajun Pasta Fresca, Catfish Pecan Meuniere. All diners are entitled to join the raffle promo, where they can win a trip for two to New Orleans, US, inclusive of a four-day accommodation in a deluxe hotel and a chance to take home special treats from Discovery Suites. Call 683-8260 or 635-2222 local 3805/3806.

LA COCINA DE TITA MONING offers a special dinner menu every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The full-course menu features the family's heirloom recipes and a tour of the ancestral home. Call 734-2146 or 734-2141. La Cocina de Tita Moning is located at 315 San Rafael St., San Miguel, Manila.

"IMPECCABLE Expressions of Goose Liver and Mushrooms" at Mandarin Oriental's The Tivoli until Sept. 8

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S "Impeccable Expressions of Goose Liver and Mushrooms" promo features goose liver imported from France and mushrooms. The Tivoli's goose liver and mushrooms promo is available for lunch and dinner (Monday-Friday), 12 nn-2:30 p.m., and dinner, 7-10:30 p.m. Call 750-8888 local 2431 and 2432.

HOLIDAY INN MANILA marks National Heroes Week until Aug. 31 at the Rotisserie. Partake of the favorite dishes of Philippine heroes patterned from the recipes of food historian Milagros Enriquez. Visit the Rotisserie at lunch, 12 nn-3 p.m., and dinner, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Call 526-1212 local 2505.

THE WESTIN'S Café Plaza's Wednesday dinner buffet offers "Seafood Harvest." Selections include fresh oysters, Norwegian amoked aalmon, snapper, tiger prawns, crabs, scallops and other seafood favorites prepared in different ways. Call 551-5555 local 1531.

SULO HOTEL'S Café Paraiso offers an à la carte menu, featuring Asian rice toppings, seafood grill galore, lamb chops, beef tenderloin and T-bone steaks and pork spareribs and Japanese cuisine. There are also Filipino recipes like paella, crispy *lechon kawali* and *estofadong dilang baka*. Call 924-5051 to -71. Sulo Hotel is on Matalino Road, Diliman, QC.

SUMIYAKI coffee jelly, kiwi juice and fruit parfait

Sumptuous meals and the best coffee brew

A REGULAR caffeine fix nowadays is no longer confined to breakfast in one's home or office, and this is because a lot of coffee shops have mushroomed in the metropolis, making coffee even more accessible to drinkers. A welcome addition, UCC Coffee Vienna Café brews what the Japanese have perfected through time—the world-famous UCC coffee. But UCC Coffee Vienna Café is definitely not your regular coffee and pastry fare—it has sumptuous meals and the best brew there is.

The new UCC Coffee Vienna Café, located on Tomas Morato in Quezon City, Connecticut Street in Greenhills and at The Podium in Ortigas Center, is a fusion of Western and Japanese influences. Sophisticated and discerning coffee lovers will enjoy their coffee in a quiet and relaxed Western ambience while savoring gastronomic delights with a Japanese twist.

UCC Coffee Vienna Café brews its coffee using the siphon method, which makes use of a contraption involving a glass jug (carafe) at the bottom, a funnel that's connected to a glass bowl on top, a holder frame and a burner underneath it. The coffee grinds are placed in the bowl and the water in the jug. In the siphon method, the water reaches the proper temperature needed for brewing before it flows into the upper bowl through a funnel. The coffee is then immediately served to customers. The siphon method brings out the richness and aroma of the coffee since it is brewed using the right water temperature. It's also important for coffee drinkers to know that coffee must be stirred in a certain way with proper timing.

What really sets UCC apart from other coffee shops are its coffee grinds, which are a product of Ueshima Coffee Company (UCC), the No. 1 coffee roasting company in Japan. A total coffee company, UCC grows its own high-quality coffee beans in various plantations in South America, Jamaica, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Hawaii.

Aside from the hot and cold coffee concoctions, UCC also serves fresh fruit juices and a wide range of continental dishes. It also whips up pasta, pizza, sandwich, waffles, rice meals and omelets to satisfy your cravings. If your stomach still has enough room after a hearty meal, UCC Coffee Vienna Café has a wide array of sinful desserts that go perfectly with a cup of steaming UCC coffee.

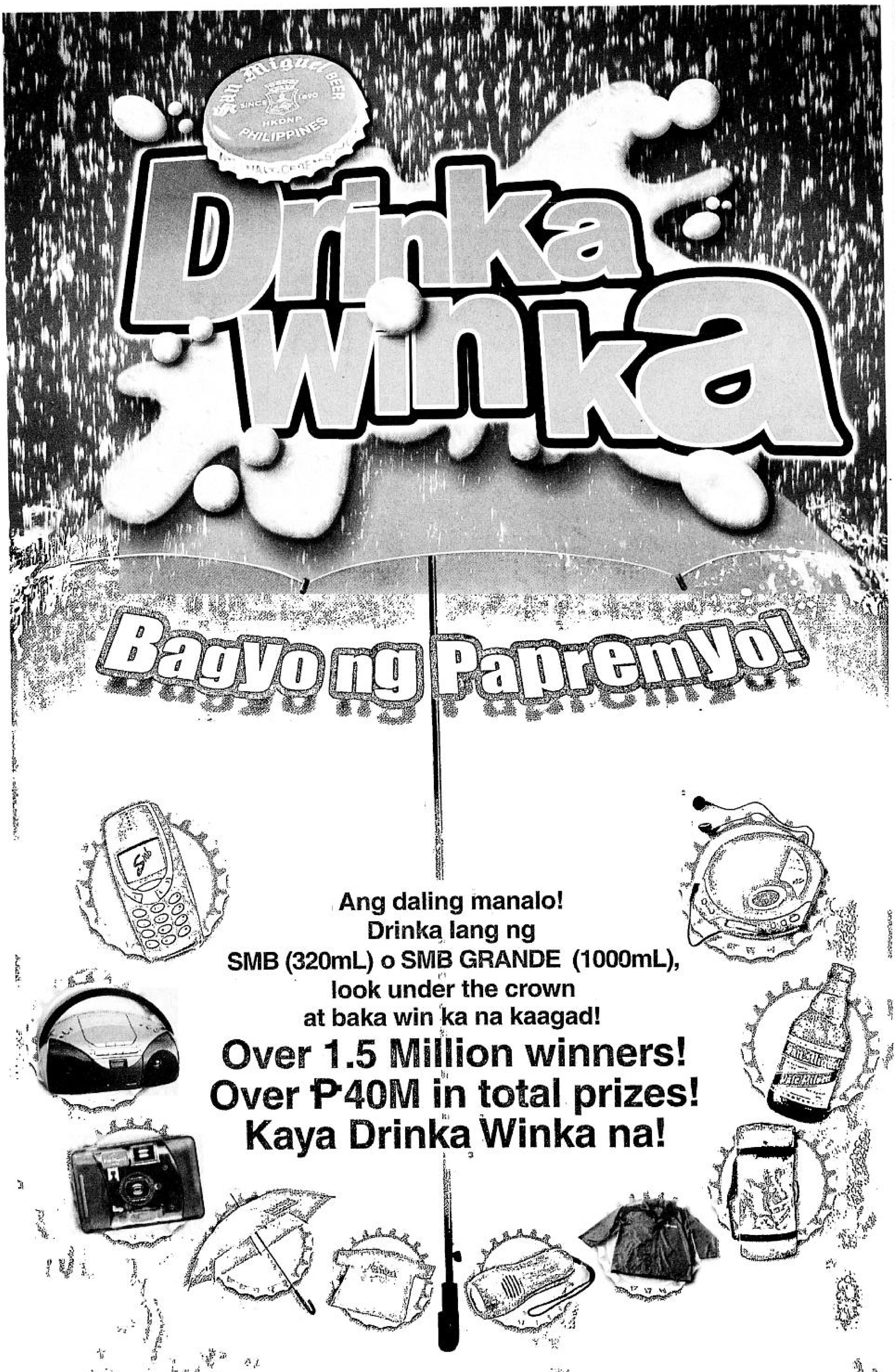
Healthy cooking that's almost like magic

AM@NBN, the newest Filipino-Chinese program on TV airing over Channel 4, 10-11 a.m. on Sundays, is running a series of "Healthy Heart Cooking Tips with AMC" this August.

The special segment, which is produced with Health is Life Int'l., the exclusive distributor of Alfa Metalcraft Corp. (AMC) cookware in the Philippines, informs audiences from all walks of life that healthy cooking can be versatile, tasty and enjoyable.

The AMC Healthy Cooking System is the only cookware set in the world that allows frying without fat, boiling without water and flavoring without salt. The "Healthy Heart Cooking Tips with AMC" segment bares all the cooking possibilities opened by these unique features through simple step-by-step demonstrations.

Similar demonstrations have been going on for quite some time at the AMC office at the G/F Shalimar Building, Pablo Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila, with tel. 523-2136/2367.



Ang daling manalo!
Drinka lang ng
SMB (320mL) o SMB GRANDE (1000mL),
look under the crown
at baka win ka na kaagad!
Over 1.5 Million winners!
Over ₱40M in total prizes!
Kaya Drinka Winka na!

MECHANICS:
- Open to (320mL.) SMB and SMB Grande (1000mL.) drinkers 18 years old and above.
- The crowns must be in good condition, no sign of rust, no deformities and plastic liners should be intact.
- Winning crowns may be redeemed at the following:
  - Free beer at all participating retail outlets.
  - Other prizes at the nearest SMBD sales offices nationwide.
- Employees of San Miguel Beer Division, San Miguel Corporation, its advertising agencies, authorized dealers/distributors, outlet owners and employees, and relatives up to the 3rd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
- SMBD reserves the right to validate the winning crowns.
- Winners of non-beer items must claim their prizes in person at any Sales Office on or before January 31, 2003. (Prizes not claimed after this date will be forfeited in favor of San Miguel Beer Division). Winners should bring one valid ID with picture.

[illegible] Actual colors of prizes may vary. Promo period is from Aug. 15 to Nov. 15, 2002. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0678. Series of 2002. Drink Moderately.